This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

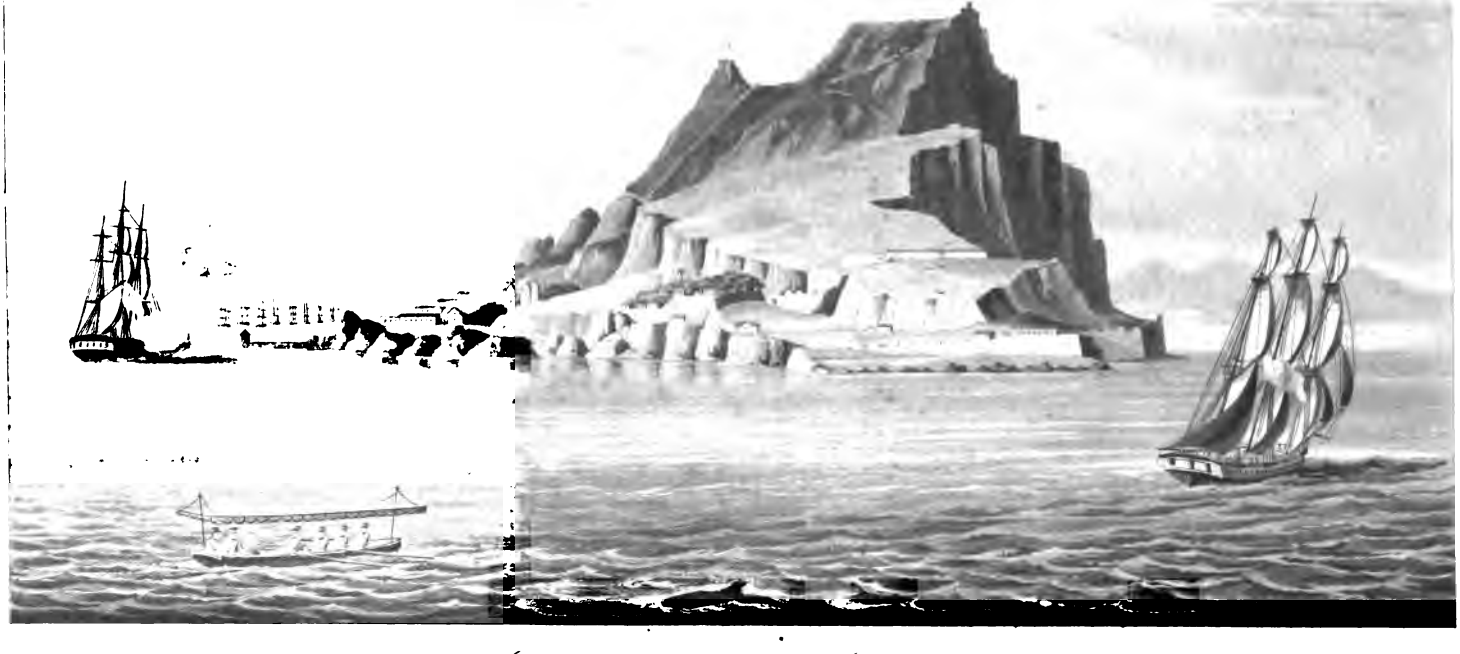
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES



A

SOLDIER'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF THE

WEST INDIES AND AMERICA,

WITH A NARRATIVE OF THE EXPEDITION TO THE

ISLAND OF WALCHEREN:

BY LIEUT. COL. ST. CLAIR.

'Twas strange: in youth, all action and all life,
Burning for pleasure, not averse from strife,
Woman—the Field—the Ocean—all that gave
Promise of gladness—peril of a grave—
In turn I tried. BYRON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

Publisher in Ordinary to His Majesty.

1834.

F 2371
S 13
v.1

TO

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL

SIR HERBERT TAYLOR, G. C. H.

COLONEL OF THE 85TH OR KING'S LIGHT INFANTRY,

FIRST AND PRINCIPAL AID-DE-CAMP TO HIS MAJESTY,

This Work is Dedicated

BY PERMISSION,

FROM SINCERE RESPECT AND ESTEEM FOR HIS EXCELLENT QUALITIES,

BY HIS DEVOTED AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Birth of the Author—His predilection for a Military Life accounted for—Educated at Edinburgh—He chooses a Profession—Threatened French Invasion—Monument at Boulogne to commemorate the intended Invasion—The Earl of Moira, Commander-in-chief in Scotland—Military Spectacles—The Author's Studies—Visit to the Earl of Rosslyn—Military Salmon-fishing—The Author receives his Commission—Congratulations of the Household—Rosslyn Castle—The fair Housemaid and the Ghost—The first suit of regimentals—Awkward Accident—A Convivial Party—Chimney-sweepers' Revel. 1

CHAPTER II.

The Author joins his Regiment—Regimental Orders—His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent—Employment of Time—Costume of the Royals—The Rape of the Queue—Threatened Duel and Reconciliation—The Regimental Mess an excellent Institution—Its effects—Different System of the French Army—Visit of a Party of French Officers to Gibraltar—The Breakfast—The Barracks—The Soldiers'

Dinner—Military Hospital—The Mess Dinner—The Author's Visit to Cadiz 25

CHAPTER III.

The Author is ordered to the West Indies — Advice of his Mother — George Erskine — Letter of Recommendation from His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent — The Mother's Parting Gift — Works on Guiana 46

CHAPTER IV.

The Author embarks in the Brilliant for Demerara — Ensigns Grant and Gordon — Captain Campbell — Discomforts on Board — Provisions — Cabin and Beds — Mr. M—— and his Family — Sea-sickness — Picture of Ensign Grant — The North Sea — A Visit to the Mast-head — A Strange Ship discovered in Pursuit — Preparations for Defence — The Brilliant brought-to — Appearance of her Pursuer — She proves to be the Active Frigate — Impressment of the Seamen of the Brilliant — The Author goes on Board the Active — Perilous Situation — Fruitless attempt to obtain the release of the Brilliant's men 57

CHAPTER V.

Madeira — A Calm — The Dolphin — The Flying-fish — Serious Accident — The Shark — The Pilot-fish — Dress or rather Undress on Board — Passing the Line — Signs of approaching Land — Land discovered — Mistake of the Captain — The Brilliant strikes on the Sugar Bank, off Demerara River — Appearance of the Coast — The Author and his Companions go on Shore 75

CHAPTER VI.

Town of Stabroek — Impressions on landing — Roads — Houses — Mode of Building — Fireflies — The Barracks —

Picture of Ensign Grant in borrowed Clothes—Hammocks — Crapauds — Mosquitoes — A Frightful Dream — West India Uniform — Colonel Nicholson — Quarters assigned to the New-comers — Quarrelsome spirit among the Officers of the Royals 90

CHAPTER VII.

Demerara River — Fort William Frederick — The Town — Roads and Streets — The Government-house — Negro-gaol —The Court-house and Church — Deficiency of Fresh Water — Stores or Shops — Provisions — Native Mistresses of Europeans — Creole Women — Miss Fanny — Boundaries of Demerara — Rivers — Colony of Essequibo — Rivers and Creeks — Fate of the Brilliant 104

CHAPTER VIII.

Journey to Berbice with Colonel Nicholson—Mr. Cummings' Estate — Mr. Heathcot's — Description of the House— Little Johnny—The Negro Huts—The Plantain Tree— The Banana—The Peccary—Cane-fields—Shooting Guinea-fowl—The Shaddock—The Forbidden Fruit—The Grenadilla—The Marrow-pear—Troop of Baboons—Description of a Sugar Plantation—Sugar-mills—Method of Planting the Canes—Invasion of Sugar Estates by Wild Animals 121

CHAPTER IX.

Road from Demerara to Berbice—Scenery—The Cotton Plant —Method of Cultivation—Spinning Cotton—Berbice River —York Redoubt—Fort St. Andrews—Reception of the Author and his Dog Pincher—The Garrison Boat—New Amsterdam—Negro Girls Bathing—Captain Yates—Lieutenant Torrens—Ensign Middleton, the Walking Army List —Sporting Propensity of Captain Yates—Crab Island— Great height of the Trees—Anecdote of a Parrot—The

Egrette—The Red-headed Woodpecker—Vindication of that Bird from the charge of injuring Trees—The Knife-grinder, or Rhinoceros-beetle—Rat Hunting—Extraordinary Method of Bagging this kind of Game alive . 138

CHAPTER X.

Fort St. Andrews—The Savannah—New Amsterdam—Boundaries of Berbice—Soil—Climate—Seasons—Diseases—Garrison—Lieutenant Dudgeon—Vice of Drunkenness—Captain Campbell—The Berbice River—Fort Myers—Aspect of the Country—Canje River—Trade of Berbice—Captain Yates and the Rattlesnake—Invasion of Red Ants—Death of a Pet Deer . . . 155

CHAPTER XI.

Trade of Berbice under the Dutch Government—Timber the only natural Production of the Colony—Courts of Justice—History of the Colony—Taken by a squadron of French Privateers—Ransomed by Dutch Merchants—They form an Association for bringing the Lands into Cultivation—Consequent prosperity of the Colony—The Directors place it under the Protection of the States-General—Obtain Authority to levy Taxes—Nature of those Taxes—Insurrection of the Negro Slaves—Mutiny of a Detachment of the Troops—Their March through the Woods—They fall in with the Rebel Negroes, who put almost all of them to Death—Fate of the Survivors—Three of them executed—Cruel Punishment inflicted on the Rebel Negroes—Deficiency of Revenue on account of this Rebellion—The Taxes doubled in consequence—Mode of paying Taxes and Salaries 169

CHAPTER XII.

Arrival of a Slave Ship at Berbice—Review of the Life of the African Negro, in freedom and enslaved—Appearance of the

Slaves—The Captain's Seraglio—Reflections on Slavery—Reasons why the cruelty of the System had not before struck the Author—The state of Slaves founded on a principle of Humanity—Slaves among the Romans—Origin of the African Slave-trade—Causes of Slavery—Captives taken in Battle—The Slave-trade has extinguished Cannibalism in Africa—Slavery existing in Africa—The Injustice of the Slave-trade more in name than reality—Benefits derived by Africans from the Traffic—Punishment of the Negro for striking a White—History of Sampson, a Runaway Black—Black Louis—Cruelty of the Dutch to their Slaves 189

CHAPTER XIII.

Sale of Slaves—Prices—Mynheer Catz—A Negro's Choice of a Wife—Indifference of the Slaves to their Fate—State of the Female Slaves—Two Negro Boys purchased by Captain Yates—Their Training for Domestic Servants—The Kishee-kishee Monkey—Adventure in a Shooting Excursion—A Water-hare caught alive by Captain Yates—Conduct of the Animal in Confinement—Canje Creek and Mynheer Catz's Plantation 220

CHAPTER XIV.

Sickness in the Colony—Unpleasant Duty of visiting the Hospital—Unhealthy Situation of the Fort—The Author accepts an Invitation to the East Coast—His Reception at the Plantation of Geanes—The Vulture—The Spoonbill—The Currie-currie—The Hammie-hammie—The Viscissy Duck—The Muscovy Duck—Abundance of Wild Fowl and Fish—Amusements of the Negroes—Dance called the Braziliero—Songs sung to it—Preparations for a Visit to a Moravian Missionary Settlement—Run along the Sea-coast—Mr. Lawson's—Torment of Mosquitoes—Voyage up the

Corantine River—The Humming Bird—Islands in the River—Monkeys—Macaws and Parrots—A Solitary Bird—Prodigious Fish—Storm of Rain—Unpleasant Situation of the Voyagers 238

CHAPTER XV.

The Houtou—The Party land on an Island—The Author and one of his Companions set out to explore it—Luxuriant Vegetation—Nest of Black Ants—Unsuccessful Fishery—Pepperpot—The Cockarito Palm, or Cabbage Tree—Poisoned Arrows of the Indians—Instance of the fatal effect of the Poison—The Mary-bunter, a species of Wasp—Beautiful Butterflies—An Indian Canoe—Traffic with the Indians—Female Indians—Comparison of the African Negro, the South American Indian, and the European—Superiority of the European 262

CHAPTER XVI.

Notes of Birds—Midday Silence—Slow advance against the Current—Indian Crab-hunters—Two of the Party proceed in a Boat to the Missionary Settlement—The Firefly—Threatened Storm—The Land-crab—Beautiful Scenery—Excessive Heat—Letter from Dr. Gordon and Mr. Fraser—Arrival at the Missionary Settlement—Description of the House—The Missionaries—Accommodation provided for the Travellers 279

CHAPTER XVII.

The Chapel—Hammock-makers—The Burial-ground—The Post-holder and his Family—Indian Village deserted on account of the Small-pox—The Powie-powie—Magnificent Vegetable Productions—The Wow-wow—Village of Arrawaka Indians—Hut of the Chief—Visited by the Travellers—Presents made by them 294

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Arrawaka Indians—Their Persons—Fashion of Wearing the Hair—Indolence of the Men—Personal Ornaments—The Quay—Household Furniture and Utensils—Cassada—Method of making Bread with it—Piwarrie—Construction of Huts—Vegetables cultivated by the Indians—Their Dogs—Mode of Training them—Method of Hunting—Fishery—The Nako and Nebe—Materials for kindling Fire and producing Artificial Light—Treatment of the Sick—Incantation of the Peii, or Physician—Language . 308

CHAPTER XIX.

Manners, Customs, and Habits, of the Arrawaka Indians—Marriage Ceremonies—Polygamy—Punishment of Adultery—Their Shiness of Europeans—Musical Instruments—Earthenware—Calebashes—Hammocks—The Silk-Grass—Weapons—Clubs—Various kinds of Bows and Arrows—Arrows for Hunting and Fishing—Method of Catching Fish with them—The Manati or River-Cow, the presumed Original of the Mermaid—Canoes—Baskets—The Travellers engage a Party of Indians to accompany them up the River 325

CHAPTER XX.

Magnificent View—Reflections on the Unhealthy Situation of the Dutch Settlements—Fatal Rencontre of poor Pincher—Anecdote of Him—Indian Method of Climbing Trees—Return to the Missionary Settlement—Stewed Monkey and Roasted Mermaid—Traffic with the Indians—The Kissee-kissee—The Derli—The Hannaqua—The Marradie—The Cole—The Waracaba, or Trumpet-bird—Preparations for continuing the Voyage—Sudden illness of Doctor Gordon—

Return down the River to obtain Medical Aid—Arrival at Brighton Plantation — The Author attacked by Ague —Detained at Mr. Ingles' Plantation — Arrival at Fort St. Andrews 338

CHAPTER XXI.

Removal of the Author to Fort Myers—His Quarters there—Alligators—Centipede and Black Ants—Neglect of Merchant Vessels to hoist their Colours—Daring Defiance of an American—The Author goes out in his Boat to Board her—Accident to the Boat—Perilous Situation—Horrid Anticipations—Story of a Seaman partly eaten alive by Fish—The Author is picked up by a Colonial Schooner—Humane Treatment of the Crew—Bar of the River—Second Fit of the Ague—The Author sent to Barbadoes for the benefit of his Health—Nancy Clark and Susy Austin—Assistant Commissary Whitmore—A Victim of Temperance—General Rules for the preservation of Health in Hot Climates—Captain M'Creagh and Captain M'Geechy—Departure from Barbadoes 358

CHAPTER XXII.

Removal to Demerara—Nocturnal Attack on the Author—History of a Tradesman of Demerara—The Electrical Eel —An American Horse—Wager made by the Author—Picture of his Antagonist—The Race—Success of the American in the Colonies—Adventure with a Shark—The Iguana Lizard 379

ILLUSTRATIONS.

VOL. I.

View of Gibraltar . . . . . Frontispiece
Runaway Negro 214
The Cockarito Palm-tree 268
Canoe and Arrawaka Indians 272
Indian Village on the Corantine 304

VOL. II.

Bostar Roads, St. Kitt's . . . . . Frontispiece
Taking an Alligator 113
Skinning a Serpent 171
Mr. Edmonstone's Wood-cutting Establishment, Mibiri Creek, Demerara River 187
Old Glen's Hut, near the Mibiri 194
View on the Demerara River 207

A RESIDENCE

IN THE

WEST INDIES AND AMERICA.

CHAPTER I.

Birth of the Author—His predilection for a Military Life accounted for—Educated at Edinburgh—He chooses a Profession—Threatened French Invasion—Monument at Boulogne to commemorate the intended Invasion—The Earl of Moira, Commander-in-chief in Scotland—Military Spectacles—The Author's Studies—Visit to the Earl of Rosslyn—Military Salmon-fishing—The Author receives his Commission—Congratulations of the Household—Rosslyn Castle—The fair Housemaid and the Ghost—The first suit of regimentals—Awkward Accident—A Convivial Party—Chimney-sweepers' Revel.

I ENTERED this world under the British flag, in the garrison of Gibraltar; and my lungs had just begun to breathe the air of life, when a loud peal of drums and fifes almost destroyed my organs of hearing. Is it then

wonderful that the first sounds which struck my attention in this busy world should ever since have interested my heart and engaged my feelings! I have followed them in peace and in war, and still will follow them as long as my limbs can support me; for, to my ears, the rattling of a British drum and fife is the sweetest of music*.

At the age of a schoolboy I found myself in Edinburgh, attending old Laing's school, where I received, for my stupidity, more thumps than rewards, until the happy period arrived when, one evening, my father asked what profession I intended to choose; "for," said he, "you are nearly at the age for seek-

* The view of my birth-place, prefixed to this volume, exhibits the appearance of Gibraltar from the Straits. The nearest object is Europa Point, above which is Windmill Hill Barrack, and on the pinnacle of the rock O'Hara's Tower. The signal-post stands on the same level. Descending the rock, on the left are the South Barracks, and the New Mole is seen jutting out into the sea.

This view, taken in 1827, represents the Asia, 74, Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, saluting the garrison on her arrival from England; while the Dryad frigate, commanded by the Honourable Captain Crofton, is proceeding up the Straits into the Mediterranean.

ing your own fortune. I hope," he continued, "that you will follow my advice and go to India, as I have been offered a writership for you, in which situation you may easily, with prudence, make a fortune and return to live among your friends. Besides, my boy," said he, "you must recollect that I have already given your three elder brothers to their country—James serves in the Artillery; William in my old regiment, the 25th; and David in the Royal Navy. Now, surely, you must think this is enough out of one family to get their heads broken in the wars."

I fixed my eyes on the good-natured countenance of the best of fathers, whose lip shewed a curl inclining to a laugh. Without hesitation, I immediately answered—"A soldier, my dear father! a soldier is the life for me!"

"What!" answered he, "you young dog! are you then determined to be a poor man all the days of your existence for the sake of wearing a gay coat?—Take advice from

experience, and you will find a full pocket better than an empty stomach."

"No!" said I, standing up, and placing my hand with energy on the back of my chair; "I would rather fight the battles of my country than wallow in the wealth of India."

The dear old man, not having yet forgotten his own military ardour, sprang from his seat, and, clasping me in his arms, with a tear of pride and satisfaction in his eye, exclaimed, "And so you shall, my boy!"

At this period, about 1802, a threatened descent of a French army upon the coast of England induced every man who was able in body to take up arms in its defence; and never was there so determined a preparation shown to resist an invading foe. From the Land's End to John o' Groat's House there was but one sentiment respecting France and her ruler; who afterwards, when a prisoner to the English in the Island of St. Helena, declared it as his opinion that, if, at

the time of collecting his large army on the opposite coast, he had taken the bull by the horns and succeeded in getting to London with two hundred thousand men, he must have conquered us. Would to God he had made the experiment! For, knowing as I do the spirit of my countrymen, I am thoroughly convinced that neither himself nor his followers would have returned to tell their story.

This threat never was put into execution, and yet a handsome monument still rears its proud head near Boulogne-sur-mer, to prove, if such proof were needed, the excessive vanity of the French. It was erected by means of a subscription of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, in Napoleon's army, each individual subscribing a sou or one halfpenny, to raise this monument in commemoration of their landing in England: but, to show the vicissitudes of fortune, this same column was destined to become a more agreeable monument to my countrymen, and a

most unpleasant one to themselves, inasmuch as it was finished to serve as a memorial of the landing of Louis XVIII. to resume the throne of his forefathers, upon which he was placed chiefly through the courage and perseverance of England. The fleur-de-lis came most appropriately to grace this monument and to save it from the scorn of the world.

A most extraordinary fact it is, that, during a war of hatred and detestation, waged between these two countries for upwards of twenty years, the most bitter enemy of Old England should never have attempted a landing on our little island; but that its inhabitants should have gone to meet his well-trained troops on the continent, overcome their superior numbers, and at length driven the usurper from his throne.

In 1810, 11, 12, 13, and 14, I was an eye-witness to the horrors and wanton cruelties committed by their armies on the afflicted inhabitants of Portugal and Spain. Murder,

rapine, and violence, fire and destruction, accompanied their ranks, till an avenging angel appeared in the person of our own Wellington, who within the space of three years drove their superior force from the lines before Lisbon into the territory of France, and even advanced and conquered them on their own soil. I served in this army, and can produce abundance of proofs that, though young, I then performed all the duties allotted to me.

About the period at which my destination was fixed (1801-2), the Earl of Moira was commander-in-chief in Scotland, and frequently treated the people of Edinburgh with military shews and parades. Upon many of these occasions have I shirked my school, as I would rather suffer the discipline of the cane than lose the sight of the "pride, pomp, and circumstance, of glorious war."

The sound of drums, cymbals, clarions, and other military music, made my little heart tremble with delight; and I envied every

man I saw with a drawn sword in his hand. On my return home from these spirit-stirring spectacles, I frequently asked my father when my commission would arrive, and received the invariable reply: "You are yet too short and too young for employment." This answer never failed to annoy me and to lower my pride, having fancied myself already quite a man.

I was at length taken from school to finish my education at home, where I was attended by a French and a mathematical master; and twice a week I took walks into the country for the purpose of learning to sketch from nature. For this accomplishment I had a considerable natural talent, which was much improved by a good master, Mr. Stevenson, who accompanied me; and the drawings from which the engravings in these volumes have been executed are the result of his instructions.

I also contrived to go through the attack and defence of a strong fortification on paper,

which I planned with excessive neatness and precision; and I learnt the use of trenches, breastworks, parallels, gabions, fascines, &c. —a department of my profession, in which, a few years afterwards, I had real opportunities of displaying my skill.

About this time I went on a visit to the Earl of Rosslyn, a relation of my father's, who was then in command of twenty thousand men encamped on Musselburgh links. I cannot describe the pleasure I experienced in watching these fine troops in all their evolutions. The Dalkeith militia, commanded by Lord Dalkeith, the eldest son of the Duke of Buccleugh, was one of the corps on this station. Lord Montagu, his grace's second son, was also in the same regiment. In 1817, this Lord Dalkeith, then Duke of Buccleugh, came out to Lisbon, where I commanded the 5th Caçadores, in a deep decline. I immediately waited on him; he recollected me and received me cordially; but his complaint rapidly gaining on his constitution soon carried him off, I

trust, to a better world. His remains were sent to Scotland for interment.

Sir Charles Douglas, now Marquis of Queensberry, was also at the above-mentioned encampment, with many other gentlemanly and agreeable men, all friends of the Earl of Rosslyn's. One day, in our ride up the banks of the Esk, a fine salmon made a tremendous spring up a rapid fall in the river, but not succeeding in gaining the top was forced back again into the water below. An halloo was now shouted by every military character: spurring their horses, they dashed into the water in pursuit. The salmon dodged between the horses' legs, each rider trying to stick him with his sword, but without effect; until my fat friend, Sir Charles Douglas, dismounting, ran headlong into the stream, in leather breeches, boots, and full military uniform, and, after several lunges at the unfortunate fish, succeeded in transfixing it. We had it that day for dinner at Lord Rosslyn's table, and found it excellent.

I spent three weeks or a month in the gayest, most cheerful, and thoroughly agreeable society I have ever enjoyed in my life; and I flatter myself I had the good fortune to possess a share in Lady Rosslyn's esteem: but she, unfortunately for me, was, not many years afterward, removed to another world, and I was bereaved of the benefit of her kind interest for putting me forward in this. I shed many a tear on leaving her at Musselburgh, and even a favourite puppy terrier, belonging to a breed of Sir Charles Douglas's, which he had given to me, could not prevent my thoughts from returning to her as I trotted home to Edinburgh with my pet, Pincher, seated on the pommel of my saddle.

At length, one day, about the middle of August, my father, after the arrival of his London newspaper, read aloud: "'1st, or the Royals, Thomas St. Clair, gent. to be ensign, dated 12th August, 1803.'—There," said he, "I hope you are now satisfied," looking at me over his spectacles.

The flurry into which I was thrown on hearing this agreeable news cannot well be described. I turned one moment red, the next white, and, I believe that, in the course of a minute, I changed to all the colours of the rainbow. "What!" exclaimed my mother, "are we to lose our dear boy so soon?" "No," answered my father, taking a letter from his pocket, "I received this yesterday from his Colonel, the Duke of Kent, informing me of his appointment, and saying that he shall not require him to join until next year, during which interval he must work hard at his studies."

I immediately hastened down stairs to the room of my old nurse, Lucy Thompson, the most faithful servant and kindest creature that ever existed. "Well, Lucy," said I, "my ensigncy is arrived, and I am gazetted." "La! bless his heart!" cried the old woman, with a tear in her eye, "be you really a soldier then, Mr. Thomas?" staring at me with astonishment. "I am so glad on't!"

said she, hurrying to the door. "Here! Betsey! Robert! Jenny! come here and see your young master! he is a soldier officer now!" In they came, one after another. Puffed up with my own consequence, I, of course, held my head high in their presence; but, as the pretty little Jenny was the last on leaving the room, I forgot my dignity, seized her round the waist, and imprinted a kiss on her cherry lips, when she bounced off as much frightened as if shot by a Frenchman.

The Earl of Rosslyn having for some years permitted my father to inhabit the ancient family dwelling of Rosslyn Castle, standing on the Esk, about seven miles to the south of Edinburgh, it was among the picturesque and lovely scenery on the banks of this river that we generally passed the summer and autumnal months.

The last time I was an inhabitant of its moss-coloured walls, I found the whole of the family and household terrified nearly out of

their senses by sounds and noises heard at midnight among its ancient battlements; as if all the noble St. Clairs, whose bodies lay in the beautiful chapel standing on the top of a hill overlooking the castle, paid nightly visits to their stronghold. The servants all declared that the noises must proceed from ghosts, and after dark they never would move from one part of the building to the other without being in companies of two or more. At last these sounds approached nearer to the habitable part of the old ruin, and were frequently heard in the passage leading to the bedrooms. Nobody could divine the cause of these fearful disturbances, and all were too much alarmed to put even their noses out of the bed-clothes to ascertain what it could be.

At this period my mother had a very handsome young housemaid, who, though under twenty years of age, had already buried her husband; she was consequently a widow, and gay and thoughtless. In the village of

Rosslyn, close by, dwelt a young peasant, who had become desperately enamoured of her; and an engagement between them to marry was the result. This was kept a profound secret; and an agreement was entered into, as is frequently the case in North Britain before marriage, to anticipate the privileges of that state. In pursuance of this plan, he walked down to the castle at midnight, covered with a sheet, when he commenced groaning and making various noises in imitation of those vulgarly attributed to troubled spirits, until he thought the servants too much frightened to attempt to look after him; and then he regularly crept into the pretty Bell's bedroom without the least molestation.

My old nurse, Lucy Thompson, who possessed a much greater degree of courage than many of the male sex, one night, as she lay listening to these frightful sounds, plainly distinguished footsteps passing her door, and, sitting up in bed, exerting all her atten-

tion, she was convinced that she heard the latch of Bell's room gently lifted. "A spirit!" said she to herself; "I 'll be shot if that *arn't* the step of a living man!" Up she jumped, and resolutely followed the pretended ghost into the fair housemaid's room. The candle was still burning on the table; the pretty Bell appeared to be fast asleep in her bed; not a soul besides was to be seen; all remained quiet and still as death. Lucy trembled all over, and leant against the table for support. Out of the window he could not have gone, as its height, overhanging the turbulent and rocky-bedded Esk, precluded the attempt. Where can he be! thought the old woman, as her courage returned; and as she again cast her eyes round the room, a closet in a corner struck her recollection. She advanced, and, opening the door, to her great satisfaction, found a stout manly youth, the son of the old woman who kept the keys and showed to curious strangers the ancient and beautiful chapel belonging to the castle. "Come out,

you rogue!" exclaimed old Lucy; "I'll expose you both." Accordingly, the next morning, a report having been made to both my parents of the conduct of Bell and Jem, the gardener's son, the buxom widow was called into the breakfast-room, where, after receiving a proper admonition, she was desired to quit the house.

On the last day of the year 1803, a full suit of regimentals, which had been ordered for me, was sent home. I was engaged on that evening to a party given in Hanover-street, by our doctor, Mr. Wardrobe, with whose niece, the pretty little Kate Lundy, I now fancied myself desperately smitten. On trying on my full-dress embroidered coat, of the pattern worn by the Scotch Guards before the Union of Scotland with England, I could not help thinking how killing I should look in it. The thought no sooner entered my head than I set to work, putting on a pair of the Kent regimental pantaloons; a leather dog-stock, stiff enough to choke a Christian; with a pair

of his Royal Highness's regimental boots, coming up to my knees: and, buttoning up my fine coat to the throat, down I strutted to the drawing-room. My mother stared at me; my sisters tittered; and all agreed that I looked vastly well. The bell was rung to let the maids have a peep at Master Tom in his new uniform; one helped to tie on my sash, another placed the sword by my side; and I, putting the cocked hat on my head, square to the front, in true regimental style, with the gold loop over the left eye, marched off to the doctor's.

A thundering knock at the door soon brought up the man-servant. "Ensign St. Clair," said I, entering. The impudent fellow stared at me and laughed; then, hastening up the staircase, I followed, like a cock-sparrow, hopping after him as fast as my paraphernalia would permit me. The drawing-room door was now thrown open and Ensign St. Clair announced, but in a tone of voice which prepared every person in the room for something ridiculous.

I heard the soft tones of the piano cease, and, having by this time reached the door, I arranged myself for my *entrée*. My sword I allowed to hang down at the full length of my waist-belt, intending to surprise the company with the effect of its capering after me over the carpet. Off I stepped in a bold military pace, left leg foremost, bowing graciously right and left, with my hat under my arm; but had not proceeded many paces when my sword, feeling itself disgraced by being tacked to the side of such an imp of mortality as I then was, suddenly jumped between my legs, and stopping my right foot, which was just then moving forward in correct military time, down I came with a tremendous thump on the floor, capsizing a card-table, upsetting candlesticks and counters, and throwing Mrs. Oliphant into a state of frenzy at the destruction of her game, whilst her competitors and the whole assembly were struck with horror and amazement at the catastrophe.

The old doctor politely hastened to pick me up, and rather consoled me by saying in a good-humoured way, "Come, youngster, I hope ye ha' na hurt yoursel." "No, sir," I replied, as he lifted me on my legs, "not outwardly by my fall, but inwardly by my awkwardness;" and, immediately turning round to the card-table, I apologized in as handsome and gentlemanly a manner as I could for having so unintentionally interrupted the game. Mrs. Oliphant, who had not yet recovered her placidity, replied: "Hoot awa, callant! bairns ha' nae business wi' spits."

The party having now pretty well recovered from the interruption which the entrance of the little ensign had occasioned, we remained sipping tea, flirting, and talking soft nonsense to the young ladies until past eleven o'clock, when supper was announced. Nothing could equal my gratification in having the sweet Kate to hand down stairs. There we were busily employed in demolishing

a good Scotch supper, when the clock struck twelve, and, on the death of the old year and the birth of the new, each gentleman seized his fair partner round the waist and imprinted a kiss on her rosy lips, expressing a wish that health and happiness might attend her to the end of it. The *hat pint*, composed of whisky, was now brought in, and toasts went round as fast as the warm and potent liquor would permit them to be drunk.

A song was then called for. The old doctor, standing up at the foot of his table, made a short and appropriate speech addressed to me, proving the old Scotch corps to which I was appointed to be the first in the army. Upon the union of the two countries, from being the Scotch Guards they had descended to the station (still a brilliant one) of the 1st Infantry, in which situation they continue as remarkable as ever for their courage, honour, and fidelity. He congratulated them upon having a youth of my birth, spirit, and bravery, among them, and con-

cluded his speech by saying, "I am sure Ensign St. Clair will favour the company wi' a sang."

As a matter of course, I was obliged to stand up and stammer out a few hasty words, expressive of my thanks for the honour he had just done my corps and myself in particular, as being worthy in his opinion of becoming the associate of so many brave men; and, flattering myself at this time that I could chime a tune, without further ceremony I seated myself, and commenced the tragi-comic ditty of the unfortunate Miss Bailey, which had been lately sung at the table of the Earl of Moira by the celebrated Tom Sheridan, then aid-de-camp to his lordship.

I kept up the humour of this song so well that at its conclusion a thundering roar of applause almost deafened me, and the young ladies all screamed out with delight, "O, dear me! how well you do sing!"

Being now far advanced in the morning of

the new year, the ladies retired, and the gentlemen closing in their seats began to pass the bottle at the rate that steamers now fly from London to Leith. Bumper after bumper was filled and emptied again and again, until the last, which I could hardly understand, quite screwed me up for the first time in my life; and, putting on my cocked hat, hind part foremost, off I staggered in the direction of my bed. I had scarcely entered Prince's street, which faces the picturesque old castle, when I came plump among a parcel of chimney-sweepers, dancing and singing on the pavement, all as drunk as myself. Being up to the throat in good humour, I immediately joined the merry throng, who passed me from one to another, covering my fine embroidered coat with their filthy *hat pint*, in attempting to pour it into my mouth from a dirty tea-kettle. With some trouble I at last arrived at my father's door, and rang the bell as gently as if it was not intended to be heard. A maid-servant con-

trived to open it; poor little Jenny was struck with horror at my appearance, and stood aghast with astonishment until I got out of sight, staggering up the staircase to bed. In the morning, when I opened my eyes, I could with difficulty recognize my uniform under the soot and filth with which it was covered.

CHAPTER II.

The Author joins his Regiment—Regimental Orders—His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent—Employment of time—Costume of the Royals—The Rape of the Queue—Threatened Duel and Reconciliation—The Regimental Mess, an excellent Institution—Its effects—Different System of the French Army—Visit of a Party of French Officers to Gibraltar—The Breakfast—The Barracks—The Soldiers' Dinner—Military Hospital—The Mess Dinner—The Author's Visit to Cadiz.

In 1804, being still engaged with my studies in the mornings, and enjoying the agreeable society to be met with in Edinburgh in the evenings, I found two additional battalions raised to my regiment, and myself consequently gazetted to a lieutenancy in the 4th battalion, my commission being dated 6th August, 1804. I received orders immediately to join at Hamilton, not far from Glasgow.

The prospect of starting in the world, to live in a barrack and to undertake military

duty, I thought at this period was the summit of happiness; and, although at the moment of taking leave of my beloved parents, I felt my heart mount into my throat ready to choke me, still I was not many miles from Edinburgh before my eyes brightened up, and smiles of delight played about my lips. On my arrival in the afternoon, I proceeded to report myself to the commanding officer, whom I found *multum in parvo*, but gentlemanlike and pleasing in his manners. Though bearing the same name with the Duke of Hamilton, I believe he was not related to him. Here I was paraded, drilled, and educated in the goose-step and the first duties of a subaltern; having three immense volumes of regimental orders and instructions for the conduct, dress, duties, &c. of each individual of the Royal regiment put into my hands. As in duty bound, I took, of course, every opportunity of perusing and studying them, and, although I frequently heard his Royal Highness of Kent abused as a martinet and a complete military

Tartar, I could not discover any thing more than the strictest rules and regulations to keep his corps in an efficient state; nor could I give credit to half the reports which I heard concerning his Royal Highness. During his life none could be more personally kind to me than he was, nor did I ever witness one act of his, towards his own regiment, which was not dictated by the strictest sense of justice and honour to every individual concerned. Most happy am I to record these sentiments as being those entertained towards his Royal Highness by every officer who served long enough in his corps to know him.

His book of regimental instructions was certainly too voluminous, and consequently contained too much matter for the head of any one man to carry; it directed attention to so many trivial things that there was not half time enough in the day to put them all in execution. But writing was his hobby. As to himself, he was a fine, handsome, manly, open-hearted, princely fellow, and the only

thing to be regretted was his not having been educated in the country to which he belonged.

During my residence in Hamilton, of course there were moments when time hung heavily on my hands. Our days were generally occupied with parades and drills, which employed at most six hours out of the fourteen, which we had of day-light; therefore, drinking and smoking were introduced to fill up some, and a flirtation with any pretty girl helped to pass away the others; for, although I was in appearance little better than a schoolboy, I was not the most backward to join in all these military pursuits.

One day, after our mess-dinner, a circumstance took place which might have caused me to be sent head-foremost out of this world sooner than I wished, and had it really been the case I should only have met with my desert. At this time the Duke of Kent had made his regiment complete Germans in dress and discipline. Our costume was an exact

copy of that adopted by the fine troops of Austria; and in the year 1830 I was struck on seeing the Emperor Francis, at Baden, near Vienna, in precisely the same kind of boots and pantaloons as those worn in 1804 by the Royals in Scotland.

Our hair was ordered to be cut after a most particular and outrageous pattern; a string being drawn over the top of the head from ear to ear, all the hair in front of it and round the face was cropped close to the head, so short as to resemble exactly the hair sticking out of a scrubbing-brush; whilst the hinder part was carefully cherished and trained to form a queue. Pretty figures we youngsters cut until our hair was sufficiently long to tie behind, and even then we looked as absurdly as before, with a thick stump sticking out of the poll of the neck, somewhat like the tail of a docked ass. Though the greatest care was taken of mine from this period until 1810, when the order came out from the Horse-Guards to cut off this appendage, it

never increased beyond the size and appearance of a black carrot hanging over my coat.

Among the subalterns, there were a few distinguished by no small singularity, as well of appearance as manners. One of these, seated next to me at dinner, when the table was cleared, coolly laid his head on it and began to snore; the harmonious sounds, ascending to the ears of the president, attracted his notice, and he immediately made me a sign, by imitating the operation, to cut off his queue.

I was delighted beyond measure at the proposed mischief; and, after making preparation by rubbing one knife against another, to be certain of performing the job effectually, I seized the end of the hair with my finger and thumb, and, taking the knife in my right hand, with one slice I cut directly through it, and held up my left hand to show that his orders were executed. My poor young man, whose tail had just been demolished, feeling the jerk of his head, immediately raised him-

self from the table, and, putting his hand behind, ascertained with horror that his cherished queue no longer existed. The blood mounted into his face; he started up on his legs, and, staring wildly at me and his right-hand neighbour, exclaimed, "Which of you two has dared to do this?" I immediately confessed that it was myself, and laid the stump upon his plate. To this confession he answered, "Then you are a d—d impertinent scoundrel."

I felt myself stung to the quick at this insult, never considering the cause which had called it forth. My scorpion blood now boiled in my veins, and, springing on my feet, I should in one moment more have put it beyond the possibility of law or military orders to prevent a meeting, when the president, Lieut. H—, who was a perfect gentleman and an old officer, standing high in the opinion of us all, immediately said, "No fight, gentlemen! Lieut. St. Clair, in cutting off your queue, only obeyed the order I gave

him, and you brought this upon yourself by committing so ungentlemanly an action as to fall asleep with your head on the table. You must be aware, sir," continued he, "that in a military mess no such irregularity can be permitted; and, in addition to the loss of your queue, I fine you, as an example to the whole of the officers present, half a dozen of wine. Mr. Vice," continued the president, "you will produce six bottles of port, and charge them to Lieut. B—'s account."

Lieut. B. looked astonished on hearing this address, but, not daring to object to the president's decision, seated himself in sullen silence.

I still felt myself grossly insulted at the appellation he had given me; and, doubly annoyed at losing so fair an opportunity, as I then thought it, of smelling gunpowder, I seated myself so as to turn my back upon the injured Mr. B. The first bottle passed, and by the time it was finished we found ourselves sitting side by side. The second fol-

lowed, and ended with a smile. The third came, and was drunk just as our hands touched each other. At the fourth we hiccoughed and called one another d—d good fellows. The fifth arrived, and we swore eternal friendship; and, after the sixth, we staggered home to bed as well as we were able.

The ancients said, with truth, *in vino veritas*, and certainly wine is the true criterion to shew a man's disposition. A regimental mess is without doubt a most judicious establishment in our army; as, by collecting together the whole of the officers of a corps, under certain wise rules and regulations, they form an agreeable society, in which, generally speaking, harmony and good fellowship prevail. They assemble at a certain hour, by the sound of bugle or drum, at one large table, upon which they are supplied with an excellent dinner on the most moderate terms. The commanding officer is as liable to the rules of the mess as the youngest subaltern. Each regiment in his Majesty's service is well

supplied by its own mess-funds with every necessary article of plate, glass, and china, of the handsomest and richest quality, to set out a table for nearly double the number of its own officers, and, wherever the head-quarters of the regiment are established, there the mess-man immediately falls to work to prepare a dinner.

Each officer of the corps arrives in his turn to be president for one week, having served the previous seven days as vice-president, in which situation it becomes his duty to note down each day the quantity of wine drunk, and the names of the consumers of it; and when his week ends he sends the mess-waiter to each officer with his account.

This is a system which must cause the most sincere friendships to be formed among the open and generous hearts of our fine young men. Rank is nothing, and when seated at table they are all upon an equality.

As we are the only army in the world in which this system of messing exists, so are we

the most determined in action and the firmest in the field of battle; and I have no doubt that this arrangement is one of the incitements to the bravery of British officers.

A wonderful difference exists between the French and English armies in this particular. In France they bargain with a *traiteur* to furnish dinner to the officers of a regiment, who assemble in a room in the cook's-shop. Now, mind the difference. Numerous small tables are placed as in a coffee-room, one for the colonel, one for the *chef-de-bataillon*, one for the captains, one for the lieutenants, and one for the *sous-lieutenans*. Any individual of these ranks, on receiving promotion, is ushered among his new associates in due form and ceremony, and can no longer mix with his former companions. At our mess, on the contrary, no rank is kept up; and if a field-officer makes himself particularly disagreeable, from being naturally of a teasing or troublesome disposition, he is frequently soon induced to change his system for one more

conciliatory, owing to the quick repartee and the roasting bestowed on him by some of the junior members.

In illustration of these remarks, let me anticipate the course of my narrative by relating the following particulars:

In the summer of 1827, being quartered in the garrison of Gibraltar, I was one morning engaged as senior field-officer, in marching off the guards to their respective posts, which is there performed with all the military etiquette laid down for this purpose, when I observed an assemblage of five French officers, who had arrived the preceding evening from Cadiz, where still lingered a garrison detached from that army which had been led thither a few years before by the Duc d'Angoulême, to deliver the valorous Ferdinand from the constitutionalists.

When the duty of the morning was ended, I rode up to the strangers, and, addressing myself generally to them, said in French, "I hope the appearance of our troops pleases

you." "*Ah! oui, Monsieur, ils sont superbes,*" they all replied at the same time. Pleased with their politeness, I gave them an invitation to my quarters, to breakfast with me, which they accepted with warm acknowledgments; and, riding on before to my beautiful little cottage in front of the South Barracks, to prepare my wife for their reception, I sent off my double-bodied phaeton to bring them up. They arrived, and, when seated at table, I never in my life saw five starved mountaineers eat more voraciously. They commenced with beef-steaks and wine, eating every morsel of meat which our cook had that morning provided for the dinner of my wife, myself, and four servants, for two days; at the same time washing it down with five bottles of their own country claret, which they proclaimed *vin excellent;* and, afterwards swallowing a comfortable proportion of coffee, eggs, and bread and butter, they finished their meal with tea and toast. Only one of them, Captain Pont du Gard,

was in manners and appearance a gentleman. The other four were complete *soldats de la révolution,* exceedingly *brusque* and unpleasant in their manners.

During breakfast we conversed upon the two armies, French and English. Of course, in their opinion, their own was the most efficient, and they pointed out one or two things in which, they said, they beat us hollow. The first was the exercise of the firelock, which was done quicker by them. To this I assented. "But," I replied, "of what advantage is it to you? Your troops certainly make more noise than ours do, but, in all the actions between the two armies, at which I have been present, the result has been in favour of the English; your side losing the greater number in killed and wounded."

"*Sacre nom de Dieu!*" exclaimed an old weather-beaten captain, seizing his grey hair with both his hands, while his eyes flashed, "what a fire you opened upon us at Vittoria!

Every ball brought down its man. *Mon Dieu!* how we did run!"

Changing the conversation, a few moments afterwards he exclaimed: "It is a great consolation for France to know that her *braves soldats* have never been beaten but through treachery."

Of course I did not attempt to argue with him on this point, and only observed that, if they read history, they would observe that in all our wars with France they had invariably come off worst whenever the two contending forces had been nearly equal. Upon uttering these words, I thought the little grey-headed captain would have jumped down my throat. Captain Pont du Gard called him to order, and apologized for the want of good manners in his friend; to which I replied: "I am not in the least annoyed at his conduct, but admire him for his feelings; at the same time, as this conversation may lead to unpleasant results, as *vous êtes braves, et nous sommes braves aussi*, I think it better to avoid any

irritating conversation, and, if you will accompany me, I shall have great pleasure in showing you all I can relating to our military system in this garrison."

We reached the South Barracks just as the drums were beating for the men's dinner, and entered the front door in time to see them seat themselves at table. They admired the regularity and comfort which they saw in every room, and certainly I will not yield precedence in this point to any army in the world.

After tasting and approving of the excellent food, which was, for that day, a stew of potatoes and meat, with an allowance of wine to each soldier, we next entered the mess-room of the non-commissioned officers, in which we found them all employed on a hearty meal of roast beef and plum-pudding. "*Oh! c'est charmant!*" exclaimed my companions, on smelling their good fare.

From the South Barracks we proceeded to the Naval Hospital, which, in these times of

peace, is made over to the military, as a garrison or general hospital, each corps having rooms for its surgeons and assistants, with abundance of excellent accommodation for the sick of their regiments. The building is exactly in the form of a large convent, two stories in height; the centre being a large square, surrounded with arcades or galleries, where the convalescents have a sheltered and covered walk to protect them from the heat of the sun, which in summer is intense on this rock.

Their admiration of the care that was taken of the sick exceeded all bounds; and, after walking over the hospital and observing the comfort and cleanliness which pervaded it, and the attention with which the inmates were treated, "*En verité*," exclaimed the old grey-headed soldier, "if we had such an establishment in France, it would be impossible to keep our men out of it." "I am happy," I replied, "in having it in my power to shew the care which our government

takes of us; and I wish you to see the con fort and good fellowship which exist amon our officers: I hope you will therefore do m the honour of dining with us at six o'clock. They assented with *beaucoup de remercimen* and at a quarter before six I went up t the mess-house to receive them. They soo arrived; after they had been introduced t my brother-officers, dinner was announced and I ushered them into the dining-room where, taking the president's chair at th head of the table, I begged my grey-headed friend, as being the senior officer among th five, to seat himself on my right hand, and Captain Pont du Gard on my left. The table was handsomely set out, and I made them remark our commanding-officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Paty, seated between two of the youngest ensigns.

During dinner I endeavoured to explain to them some of the rules of the mess, which appeared to strike them with astonishment; nor could they help expressing their sur-

prise, at observing the terms of familiarity and friendship upon which we all appeared to be.

An excellent dinner having been now demolished, bottles, glasses, and a good dessert, were placed on the festive board. I filled a bumper, and called on the vice-president to do the same, to the health of our king.

The wine passed freely round; toast after toast was drunk, and among them the health of our new acquaintances and their regiment, the 34th French infantry. When I thought that a sufficient quantity of wine had been taken, being apprehensive of the effects of too much upon my new friends, I proposed to the whole table to retire to my quarters and smoke a cigar. Down we went; and, after passing a pleasant evening, I was happy to find my grey-headed *ami* so pleased with us all, that his temper brought him into no scrape, and wishing us a *bien bon soir* they retired to an inn in the town.

The next morning they waited upon me,

and expressed in warm terms their gratitude for my politeness to them, begging that I would not pass through Cadiz without informing them of my arrival.

In December, 1827, being ordered home to take command of the 94th depôt at Plymouth, I embarked in the Malta packet, which put into Cadiz for the mail. Here I landed, in the afternoon, and, walking to the great square in the centre of the town, found the whole of the French garrison marching past their general in close columns. I soon spied out my five friends, heading their companies; and, after the corps were dismissed, they soon hastened up to me with all the French flummery of politeness, hoping that *Monsieur le Colonel* was in perfect health, and that he intended to pass a few days in Cadiz; "for," said they, "our Colonel wishes to call upon you, to express his thanks for your extreme attention to us whilst at Gibraltar, and we beg you will be kind enough to dine with him."

I had scarcely reached the hotel where I intended to sleep for that night, when *Monsieur le Colonel* of the 34th regiment was announced. He immediately began by expressing his obligations to me for the kindness I had shown to five of his officers when on a visit to Gibraltar, and ended by saying in rather a pompous manner: "In our service only officers of the same rank dine together, and *I* hope to have the honour of your company at six o'clock." I excused myself in the most acceptable way, and next morning embarked and sailed for England.

CHAPTER III.

The Author is ordered to the West Indies—Advice of his Mother — George Erskine — Letter of Recommendation from His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent — The Mother's Parting Gift — Works on Guiana.

To return to my Journal. I had been nearly nine months with the fourth battalion of the Royals, in Hamilton, when an order came down from his Royal Highness for Lieutenant St. Clair and Ensigns Grant and Gordon to prepare themselves for embarkation, to join the first battalion in the West Indies. I immediately obtained leave of absence to prepare myself for a residence in so warm a climate, and, ascertaining that the vessel, in which we were ordered to take our passage, would not sail from Greenock before the month of November, I arrived in Edin-

burgh with a joyous heart at the idea of going on foreign service.

What a lecture I now had to endure from my dear mother, who thus began :—

"It must be obvious to you, my dear boy, that a change of climate from the temperate to the torrid zone must necessarily create a wonderful change in your system; and a great deal will depend on the time of year in which you arrive as to the effect upon your constitution. But with due precaution you may manage to keep your health, and ought to prevent a serious fit of sickness. You must never allow your mind to be depressed by the slightest apprehension, as I have heard the fear of sickness alone, in the unwholesome climate to which you are going, is sufficient to produce disease; therefore, for our sakes, my dear child, never think of fevers, nor give way to the slightest alarm of illness. You must not expose yourself to the burning sun more than is actually necessary on points of duty. Keep out of the wet, and

be careful of what you eat; and do not drink too much.

"You are still, my dear Tom, in a delicate state of health; therefore, for the sake of us all, do take care of yourself, as the climate to which you are going will, in all probability, disperse the seeds of consumption which you have at present in you."

The time passed with rapid wings during this short visit to Edinburgh, and I considered these last three months at home as the happiest of my life. I had just attained the age at which a young man becomes his own master; all my acquaintances were now flocking into town to avoid the dreary scene of leafless trees and hoary frost; and I continued, night after night, enjoying their society, at balls, suppers, plays, &c. Luckily for me my admiration for the fair sex was so general that I had no secret *penchant* for any one in particular; so that, when the moment arrived for my departure, I took leave of all my sweet little friends, from whose lips I sucked the

honey, like the busy bee, but left no sting behind.

At this period, an intimate and cherished friend, an old schoolfellow of mine, George Erskine, son of the Hon. Henry Erskine, the celebrated barrister, took courage and informed his father that his inclinations were not for the law, for which he had hitherto been brought up; and this sensible man, finding it in vain to argue with his son, a few days afterwards recommended him to a relation of his own, Lieutenant-General Sir James Steuart, Bart., full Colonel of the 12th Light Dragoons, into which corps he was shortly afterwards gazetted a cornet, and joined this fine regiment about the same time that I started for the West Indies. His uncle, the Earl of Buchan, who had been particularly kind to me, as a boy, in Edinburgh, insisted on my taking with me an introductory letter to a friend of his, Lord William Bentinck; "for," said he, "I am certain, if he ever has it in his power, he will be useful to you.

and, at all events, will show you kindness and attention." To this day I have never had the honour of meeting with his lordship.

A few days previously to my departure from Edinburgh, my father received a letter from my colonel, the Duke of Kent, inclosing for me an introduction to Lieutenant-General Sir William Myers, Bart., Commander-in-Chief in the Windward and Caribbee Islands. His Royal Highness's letter having been unsealed, I am able to furnish the following copy:

"Kensington Palace,
September 10th, 1805.

"DEAR SIR WILLIAM,

"The bearer of this letter, Lieut. Thomas St. Clair, of my first battalion, is a young man in whose welfare I am most particularly and warmly interested, from the friendship I bear his parents, from whom I received every mark of kindness and attention when first I commenced my services with the British troops at Gibraltar, sixteen years ago, at a time when I landed in that garrison, a

stranger to every individual in it, and unaccompanied by any one person on whom I had ever set eyes before I embarked on board of the ship that took me there. You will easily conceive, therefore, how grateful I must feel for the hospitality and friendship shewn me at such a time, and how much I must be interested about this young man, then an infant, whom I had almost every day in my arms, and who served, from the amusement his infantine tricks afforded me, to beguile many an hour, which would otherwise have been at least tedious, not to say melancholy, from the particular circumstances under which I first went out there.

"Having said this, I will now proceed to mention to you, that for some years past my young protégé has been in a very deplorable state of health, from which, even at this present moment, I can hardly consider him thoroughly recovered; indeed, in my own opinion, he ought still to be regarded and treated as being only in a state of convalescence. I am,

therefore, not without some degree of apprehension, that, although it is both to be hoped and expected, from the time in which he will arrive, that he will not suffer from the change of climate while the cool season continues, he may feel some return of his complaint, which has been a pectoral one, when the hot weather sets in, in the month of June next. Should my fears on this head be realised, my request to you is, that you would then grant him immediate leave to come home, in order to escape the unhealthy season, and I will in return, on my part, pledge myself that in October he shall, if his health be re-established, go back to his duty. From what I have said you will easily understand that I have the case of this young man much at heart, and I am certain I need add no more to ensure your kind attention to him, than that I shall ever most gratefully acknowledge any and every act of kindness done by you to him.

"As I shall have occasion to address you

concerning my regiment by the next mail on the first Wednesday in the month, I will not at present take up any more of your time than is necessary for me to add that I ever remain, with the most friendly regards,

" Dear Sir William,

" Yours faithfully and truly,

(Signed) " EDWARD."

" To Sir William Myers, Bart.
Commander-in-Chief
in the Windward and Caribbee Islands,
&c. &c. &c."

Every person who reads this letter must be convinced that his Royal Highness had a large share of those excellent qualities, generosity and kindness of heart. Through life he continued towards me the same sentiments of esteem and friendship which he here so kindly expresses; and never was there an individual more sensible of the honour conferred on him, or more truly devoted to his Royal Highness, than I was.

At length the moment for my quitting

home arrived; my heavy baggage had been sent off a few days before by waggon; I followed by coach, on the 21st November, 1805.

A few moments previously to my departure, my beloved mother put into my hands a handsome prayer-book, saying, "This you will find always useful through life; keep it, my dear boy, for my sake, and recollect that the Almighty always watches over those who deserve his care." To this day have I kept it safe, after accompanying me through all the risks and dangers I have run by sea and land; and though it has now, like myself, grown old and nearly worn out in the service, still, for the sake of her who gave it to me, I shall guard it as long as one leaf holds to another, and when it falls to pieces I shall, in all probability, be so much on the decline myself, that we may both sink together to the grave.

My father kissed me again and again, and with tears in his eyes exclaimed: "God grant you health and prosperity, and that

we may live to see you return!" Oh! what an example of patience and mildness was he! I love to think of his rare and excellent qualities; and frequently, through the precarious life into which I was now launching, did I strive to follow his example by avoiding that which I thought my own conscience would not approve. My nurse, Lucy Thompson, screamed with anguish as I rushed from the house to take my place in the coach, upon which my faithful little dog Pincher had been tied a few moments before.

The maps of South America had long been my study, and I found the small spot to which I was bound (British Guyana) a mere speck on this enormous continent. The rivers Corantine, Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo, were the four large arms of our possessions, which bordered on Colombia; and it appeared as if British, Dutch, and French Guyana, were merely stepping-stones for these countries in South America.

The most entertaining work I found upon

these colonies was Stedman's Surinam. The author was an officer in the Dutch service, who had been employed with the troops for some years in this colony against the revolted blacks. His accounts are romantic in the extreme, and some of them too wonderful to be strictly believed. I therefore determined to form my own opinion on this country, and not to be led astray by the accounts which I might have perused.

Since my first start in life I have kept a regular journal, of which the following is a true copy.

CHAPTER IV.

The Author embarks in the Brilliant for Demerara — Ensigns Grant and Gordon — Captain Campbell — Discomforts on Board — Provisions — Cabin and Beds — Mr. M—— and his Family — Sea-sickness — Picture of Ensign Grant — The North Sea — A Visit to the Mast-head — A Strange Ship discovered in pursuit — Preparations for Defence — The Brilliant brought-to — Appearance of her Pursuer — She proves to be the Active Frigate — Impressment of the Seamen of the Brilliant — The Author goes on Board the Active — Perilous situation — Fruitless attempt to obtain the release of the Brilliant's men.

On arriving at the hotel in Greenock, which I found situated close to the bank of the Clyde, the Brilliant and Ariadne, two armed merchant ships, were pointed out to me lying at anchor. The same night, Ensigns Grant and Gordon, my two *compagnons de voyage*, arrived, and we employed the next two days in arranging our baggage for embarkation, and seeing such things as we should not require

on the voyage stowed away in the hold of the Brilliant.

Captain Campbell of the first battalion also arrived: he had returned to Scotland nearly a twelvemonth before in a dying state from severe illness, and was now, on his return to join our regiment, a passenger in the Ariadne.

On the 25th November, 1805, the Brilliant and Ariadne fired a gun and hoisted the signal for sailing. We all swallowed our breakfast in a hurry and hastened on board, but did not get under weigh until eleven o'clock P. M., when both ships dropped down the Clyde with easy sail, and at ten the next morning entered the Irish Channel, having a perfect view of the verdant coast of Ireland on one side contrasted with the lofty and barren mountains of Wales on the other. For some days we found ourselves standing up the Irish Channel, when the wind veered right ahead of us, and the weather became thick and foggy. After beating about in a

heavy sea a whole night without making the least headway, our captain, by signal with the Ariadne, put about and made direct for the North Channel.

The discomforts we poor landsmen now suffered cannot well be related. Our food was chiefly salt provisions with potatoes; our breakfast nothing but porridge, the tea and water not being drinkable. In short, the change was so great from what I had been accustomed to in my father's house, that the difference rather amused than distressed me.

The cabin of the ship was small and filthy, our beds exceedingly hard, narrow, and short, being arranged around it in two rows of births, one over the other; and we found on board, besides our three selves, a consequential little vulgar personage named M——, his wife, and a fine little boy. He gave us to understand that he was a storekeeper in Demerara, which on our arrival in this colony we found to mean a shopkeeper, and

with him he had his clerk, or, as we should call him in England, his apprentice, a fine stout young Scotchman. Mr. M——, when the weather became finer and our stomachs more reconciled to the sea, informed us that he went out to the West Indies as messman to the first battalion of the Royals, and, having made what he considered a fortune, he was setting up as merchant. He spoke highly of our commanding officer, Colonel Nicholson, and amused us much by many anecdotes of others whom we should soon be acquainted with.

The sea was now running high, the Brilliant pitching and tossing before the wind, and the passengers, all as pale as ashes, came hastening down to the cabin, seeking comfort in their births. But alas! this idea of happiness was soon to cease, as, by one roll, followed by a tremendous pitch, we were all overwhelmed with the horrors of sea-sickness.

Poor Grant was the worst among us. In person he was, excepting in age, the exact

counterpart of Don Quixote; upwards of six feet in height, with arms and legs long enough to reach round the cabin. Screwed up into a birth, hardly four feet in length, he of course was lying with his knees nearly up to his mouth, which every now and then opened from ear to ear.

The third day arrived, and, our stomachs being more reconciled to the element on which we were embarked, we devoured the ship's provisions with astonishing voracity. "Lobscouse," an excellent stew of salt beef and potatoes, was produced and disappeared with rapidity; even the porridge and beer and the musty biscuit were now praised—such is the effect of a good appetite combined with health. To our great satisfaction we never experienced sea-sickness again during the whole of the voyage.

On Saturday night, the 7th of December, we drank to the health of sweethearts and wives; and, on Sunday the 8th, I read prayers from my mother's gift, and, turning over the

first blank leaf in the book, I beheld in her hand-writing my name, and under it, "From an affectionate mother." I kissed the letters; my eyes filled with tears; and, kneeling down, I prayed to the Almighty, with a fervent and devoted heart, to bless both my beloved parents.

We had by this time entered the North Sea, and it now began to blow a severe and heavy gale, which continued for three days. During this period we were in considerable danger of being lost among the Scottish isles. We were driven within half a mile of the isle of Isla, with the wind directly on shore; and here we lost sight of the Ariadne, and knew nothing of her safety until the 19th, when we fell in with her in latitude 43° 30′, and were happy to find all well.

After clearing the land and steering our due course round the north of Ireland, in the morning, as day-light dawned, a strange sail was discovered to windward of us. The captain, who was snug in his bed, immedi-

ately jumped up and ascended the mast-head, whence only she could be seen; and, reconnoitring her well through his glass, down he came upon the deck: all hands were piped up; and, putting his ship before the wind, away we ran, cutting and splashing through the boundless ocean.

I jumped from my birth on the news being communicated below, and, though yet but a young and awkward seaman, I managed with some difficulty to mount the mast-head, though in a very unseaman-like manner, crawling through the lubber's-hole. Here I was obliged to cling, like a lizard to a branch of a tree in a gale of wind, and stood grasping the ropes so tight that my fingers ached again. Every roll or pitch which the ship made caused me to look down with horror at the waves below, ready to engulph me.

My timid gaze at last striking over the agitated plain of water, by which we were surrounded, I discovered at the horizon a small white speck, something like a butterfly,

at which I was staring without knowing what it meant, when the captain again came up from the deck, and, looking through his glass at the object which attracted my attention, exclaimed: "Zounds! she is after us!" The whole day we ran out of our direction to avail ourselves of the wind, with every stitch of canvas hoisted, in order to gain upon her, but without effect; for, at twelve o'clock, whilst the captain and his mate were making their nautical observations, her hull became visible to us from the deck. All the small-arms on board had been handed up to the passengers and crew, to prepare for use: the enemy, as we supposed her to be, still gaining on us rapidly.

The four male passengers were formed into a marine corps to act under my orders, each of us being armed, like Robinson Crusoe, up to our throats with muskets, cutlasses, and pistols. After cleaning our weapons from the quantity of grease with which they were covered, to preserve them from rust at sea, I

began to instruct and exercise my company in loading and firing. My lank and good-humoured friend, Ensign Grant, had the place of honour on the right; Mr. M——, with his young friend, the clerk, in the centre; and Ensign Gordon on the left.

Our crew were none of the best, more than two-thirds of them having never been out of sight of land in their lives before; still they all worked cheerfully in preparing the ammunition, and arranging the tackling of the guns on deck for the coming fight.

The captain had long since determined the stranger to be a French frigate, which had been heard of for some time past scouring the North Seas. Our ship, though a fine vessel, appeared to me so wretchedly manned and armed that I fancied our pursuer was capable of blowing us out of the water, even though the Brilliant was a letter of marque.

The enemy's hull now appeared to us above the sea, and fully determined us that she was armed and ready for fight. Our vessel was

still rattling away at the rate of not less than ten knots an hour, making the angry billows roar as she plunged her head into the waves, which tried to delay us in our hurry. The evening was now fast approaching; and our captain cheered us with the prospect of night soon throwing her sable cloak around us, which would enable him to change his course in the dark and avoid the danger. But, just as the sun was declining under the green circle by which we were surrounded and appeared to plunge into the ocean, a shot was fired by our enemy to try our distance: it passed ahead of us and fell into the sea. All hands were immediately called to quarters; another shot soon followed the first through our rigging: we still stood on with all our sail, when a third was sent after us, and came so near our heads as we lined the deck ready for action, that our captain found it necessary to lower the mainsail, at the same time swearing like a trooper. On this last shot passing so immediately over our heads, even my brave

troops on deck followed the example of most of the sailors by ducking, and be it known that I did the same. This is the first natural impulse of man, who is unaccustomed to hear the frightful noise which a passing round shot makes in the air; and it was only after some trials on the Continent of Europe, where I found by experience that the noise was the signal for safety, the ball having passed at the moment of its being heard, that I learned by degrees to carry my head erect under their hissing.

Our pursuer now, like a falcon high in air, flying round a little bird before he pounces on it, came down on our windward side, to which we passengers immediately made face, and, crossing close under our bows, laid herself ready to pour a broadside into our leeward quarter. Nothing could have been more masterly than this manœuvre, as our whole deck was exposed to the effects of their fire, whilst their own was covered by the heel which their ship now made from us; their

guns for this reason being more manageable, one broadside would have cleared our decks. A long range of port-holes were opened the whole length of the enemy's ship; and a lighted lantern was seen swinging backward and forward at each of them, as she pitched or raised her bows to meet the swelling wave. We were thus enabled to discover the order and regularity prevailing within, from which we decided that she must be a man-of-war. Neither flag nor pendant was hoisted, to shew us to what country she belonged, and we were all waiting in silent anxiety and expectation for the result, when a loud and hoarse voice, bellowing through a speaking-trumpet, uttered the following words: "Ship ahoy! what ship is that?" We all smiled on hearing our own language, and the captain, leaping upon a gun, immediately answered, "The Brilliant, from Greenock." "Lie-to," was the reply.

By this time we had again separated a short distance, and she lowered her boat and

sent it on board of us, when we learned from the lieutenant that she was the Active frigate cruising on this station. After ascertaining from us that she was the first vessel we had seen or spoken to since leaving port, and examining the ship's papers, the officer desired the crew to be formed on deck, to which our captain, fearing the consequences, replied, "I hope, sir, that you will not press any of them, for I have scarcely regular seamen enough to work my ship already." To this he answered, "I only obey my orders."

The crew were now all collected before the mast, and he, taking up his station with his back against the mizen, called out to the men to walk aft, one at a time. The first passed without any observation; the second now advanced, and the lieutenant, stopping him by placing his hand on his shoulder, exclaimed: "You must go with us, my lad." In this manner he picked out from our crew the five only good seamen we had on board.

Well, thinks I to myself, my lad, you must be a d—d knowing fellow, in the swagger of a seaman.

The poor captain of the Brilliant was now quite down in the mouth, and besought me for God's sake to go on board the Active and to request the captain to give us back at least two or three of his men, as he could not answer for the safety of his ship without them. "He cannot refuse to see an officer of your rank, and I hope you will be able to persuade him to give them up." I held up my head, pleased with the expressions he had just made use of; and, consenting, the boat was immediately lowered from the stern of our ship into the sea, which was running mountains high. While I stood at the gangway, gazing at the cockle-shell which would soon be my only stay from eternity, I certainly did feel my courage oozing out at the ends of my fingers; and nothing but the shame of exposing my weakness induced me to jump in when she rose to a

level with the deck, the mate, who was seated at the helm, calling out to me, "Now, sir! now!"

My animal courage by degrees returned to its proper place, when I found how easily we ascended and descended over the agitated waves, just like a cork thrown into a tub of water. A rope being thrown to us from the deck of the frigate, we were pulled up alongside of the Active.

But now, landsman-like, I thought that our danger had ceased, when in reality it was trebly increased upon us, our small boat rising and falling as it did before, when alongside of the Brilliant, with this difference that, being carried up under the mizen-chains, our little bark was nearly filled by the rising surge. Our mate again repeating the words, "Now, sir! now!" I seized hold of two ropes, one in each hand, but, in attempting to place my feet among the rigging, down went the boat, leaving me suspended over the sea, hanging by my arms. I had time enough to consider

the frightful situation in which I was placed over certain perdition, from which, I verily believe, nothing could have saved me but the determination and courage of a generous English tar, who no sooner saw me in this precarious position, than, with one spring from the deck, he seized me by the wrists, and in a moment I found myself in his arms. His name I ascertained to be William Smith, and he was as fine a young fellow as ever stepped on the deck of a British man-of-war. I should be proud now to meet him again, and offer my thanks in a more substantial manner than I had it in my power to do at that time.

On feeling myself safe on deck, I began to put myself to rights after the flurry of the moment; and the officer of the watch coming up to me, whilst pulling down the cuffs of my shirt-sleeves, after the usual salutation, I asked him: "Where is your captain?" "He is in the cabin," was the answer. "Then will you be kind enough to inform him that Lieu-

tenant St. Clair of the Royal Regiment wishes to speak to him." He smiled, and replying, "I am afraid, sir, he will not see you to-night," he consoled me by informing me that he would acquaint him with my wishes. Down he went by the after-gangway, but soon returned with the information, that the captain had just *tumbled in*, and was sorry that he could not see me. "Poor man!" I exclaimed, (thinking of my own past perils), "he was lucky in being hauled out again." "I mean, sir, he is gone to bed," replied the lieutenant of the watch, in a horse-laugh. "Well, sir, it is an exceedingly hard case that he will not see me after the risks and dangers I have just gone through, and I wish you to tell him so." "Indeed, sir, you must excuse me, as he has desired not to be disturbed."

I was now most dreadfully mortified at finding all my rhetoric thrown to the wind; and, refusing all his kind and friendly offers of grog, &c. I begged him to order my boat

up to the side, when, slipping into her, I told him that his captain had our lives to answer for.

I soon lost sight of the Active frigate, and determined for the future never again to undertake such a fool's errand.

CHAPTER V.

Madeira — A Calm — The Dolphin — The Flying-fish — Serious Accident — The Shark — The Pilot-fish — Dress or rather Undress on Board — Passing the Line — Signs of approaching Land — Land discovered — Mistake of the Captain—The Brilliant strikes on the Sugar Bank, off Demerara River — Appearance of the Coast — The Author and his Companions go on Shore.

After getting again on board the Brilliant, we held on our course, and, on the 22d December, at 4 A. M. made the north-west point of Madeira, bearing south-west, distant five leagues. Towards day-light we distinctly saw its steep and rocky mountains standing high above the surrounding ocean. At eight A. M. we discovered a wreck, hove-to, and lowered our boat, when we found it to be the main-mast and part of the main-yard of some unfortunate vessel, which might have perished in the late gale. The sea running high, we could not save any of the rigging.

This afternoon we hooked a dolphin, which proved a great acquisition to our supper, and a flying-fish, measuring thirteen inches in length, fell on deck. We had now delightful weather, with a clear sky and light breezes, which accompanied us for the remainder of our voyage.

On the 24th of December we were still standing on in our course, with delightful, clear, serene weather. At 8 A. M. discovered a strange sail steering S.S.W. The captain determined to be the first to offer fight, and, immediately upon seeing her, made all sail to gain upon her; but, the breeze being slight, could not make way, and lost sight of her during the night.

December 25th. This morning was by far the hottest we have as yet experienced; not a breath of air to refresh us on deck, though, in our own country, at this season of the year, we should have been perishing with cold. The sun was exceedingly hot, and the immense expanse of ocean around us had the appear-

ance of one vast mirror. We lay like a log on the water, and plainly discovered the innumerable concourse of fish, who amused themselves by swimming around our vessel. With the assistance of a barbed spear, we managed to strike several dolphins, that came up to the surface of the water. A more beautiful fish cannot well be imagined, exhibiting the greatest variety of colours, which keep changing, while the fish is expiring, to the most lovely tints of yellow, green, red, and black. Although the flesh is dry and hard, yet, when broiled, with pepper, it constitutes not a bad repast at sea.

This fish was anciently celebrated in poetic story on account of its fabulous virtues, but to the dolphin or dorado of the moderns this character is far from applicable, as it is extremely voracious and destructive. It is known to follow ships and exhibit its gambols round the vessel, not from attachment to human nature, but from the selfish motive of procuring food. The whole of its back is

richly enamelled with spots, between azure blue and a clear reflecting sea-green, on a very dark ground, which gives it the appearance of being spangled over with jewels. The sides of this fish are of lighter and equally beautiful colours ; the fins and tail of a golden dye, which form a lovely contrast with the belly, which is white. Its length is from three to six feet, and its shape tapers from head to tail, which is in form like a swallow's. The head is round, and the jaws are armed with several rows of sharp teeth. It has uncommonly small scales, and is furnished with a fin, which runs along its back from one extremity to the other. Its rapidity in swimming is quite astonishing, and in this respect it is surpassed by but few other fish in the ocean. Dolphins constantly pursue the smaller tribes, and are particularly fond of the flying-fish, which is of about the size and shape of a herring; and I have frequently seen them, as these fish rise

from the waves, spring after them into the air.

The flying-fish has two long membranous fins, by means of which it rises out of the water to a considerable distance to avoid its pursuers; but, as soon as its fins become dry from the effect of the air, they lose all power of supporting the body, and down it falls again into its natural element. I have seen them frequently clear the topmast of the Brilliant and fall into the water at some distance on the other side, and often even on her deck. Their wings are as long as their body, of a golden hue, variegated near the edges with spots of azure blue. The fate of these little animals seems to be peculiarly severe, as they not only become the prey of the scaly and feathered creation, but frequently meet their fate by sticking in the shrouds of vessels or falling on their decks.

This day a most serious accident happened on deck, and those who escaped blessed their stars for their good luck. Many of the sea-

men were employed during the calm in mending some sails, and a fine young fellow was seated with many others between the main and mizen-masts engaged in this occupation, when an enormous block gave way from above, and fell among them. I heard the crash of the limb of the young man just mentioned, and his screams immediately alarmed all on board. We ran to his assistance, and found his right leg under the block, as flat as a pancake; he was with difficulty lifted up and carried into the hold, where the captain who acted as doctor attended him. Though I believe the unfortunate man in a great degree recovered, still he never again had the use of his limb.

December 26th. The calm continued, with mild and pleasant weather, being much cooler than yesterday. We observed a very large shark swimming round the ship, and immediately hastened to prepare a large iron hook fastened to some yards of chain; and after several vain attempts we at last secured

the object of our sport. It measured ten feet in length, had a dark greenish back and fins, with a yellowish belly; when it swallowed the bait, which was a lump of salt pork, it was obliged to turn on its back, owing to the upper jaw protruding so far over the under. There are many different species of this fish, but this one proved to be the most formidable of its kind. Its head was rather depressed, with two spouting holes or nostrils; the eyes were prominent, and the fish possesses the power of turning them in every direction. Nearly under these was its enormous mouth, large enough in some of these animals to admit a man. Its teeth are placed in five or six rows, and are so strong and sharp as to snap off the leg or arm of a man as easily as we do the leg of a chicken.

The whole shape of this fish is, in every respect, exactly like that of the dog-fish in our own seas. Its skin is used for what we call shagreen. It swims with uncommon velocity; but, being under the necessity of turning on

its back to seize its prey, a fish may easily escape its jaws.

I observed in our prize, as it lay on deck, that it had the power of moving its teeth at pleasure, elevating them when angry, ready to seize its prey, or depressing them to the level of its mouth when left in peace.

When it was first hoisted upon deck, we expected that it would have split the planks from the force with which it lashed them with its tail; luckily the cook was ready with a cleaver, and, taking an opportunity of striking it on the bone near the tail, it lay quite helpless at full length.

We observed that while in the water it was attended by two little pilot-fish, so called from their swimming before the shark, and a most singular circumstance in their history is, that they first taste of all food before the shark ventures on it; for which service he in return protects them from larger fish, and never molests them himself.

The pilot-fish is not much larger than a

herring, and prettily marked round the body with several broad stripes of a dark brown colour.

We found the weather now as we advanced towards the south and west becoming daily hotter, and our captain was obliged to erect a canvas awning over the quarter-deck, to protect his passengers from the burning sun during the day. All of us now appeared on deck dressed, or rather undressed, in the true West Indian style, which is a white calico jacket, a shirt, and white Russia duck trowsers; these, with a pair of thin shoes, composed our attire, as I found the heat too great even for stockings; and for some days afterwards I could not put them on again, owing to the sun's scorching rays blistering my insteps to such a degree that they were nearly a week in recovering.

We now reached the spot where the sun was exactly perpendicular over our heads at twelve o'clock, and we passed the equator or that imaginary line which divides the northern

from the southern hemisphere. This is called crossing the line, when the usual ceremony of ducking the fresh-water sailors was put in practice, and we three soldiers were only saved from the usual effects of this disagreeable custom by bribing Neptune and his wife with a large quantity of spirits. We were now in the track of the trade-winds, which blow continually from east to west, and the weather, being temperate, rendered the remainder of our voyage extremely pleasant. We were moreover amused by the numerous dolphins, which beautiful fish seemed to take peculiar delight in shewing themselves and sporting round the vessel.

A pig or two being now killed afforded a most acceptable addition at our board, the heads making delicious soup, which was exceedingly relished by all.

At length our captain began to conjecture our approach to the shores of South America by the change of colour discernible in the water, which, from being hitherto as clear as

an emerald, now daily became thicker and more impregnated with mud.

On New Year's day, the 1st January, 1806, we made soundings in thirty-five fathom water, extremely muddy, but no appearance of land.

On the 2d at 3 P. M. "Land ho!" was sung out from the mast-head; but it was late in the evening before we could discover it from the deck; and then merely the tops of lofty trees were visible.

Land, when first discovered from sea, has generally the appearance of a dark line or spot close to the horizon, which is frequently mistaken for a cloud; but we were now in shallow, thick, and muddy water, without being able to perceive any other sign of the immense continent of South America, which lay before us, but the mere summits of some trees.

By the ship's reckoning we supposed ourselves to be off the mouth of the Corantine river, which empties itself into the Atlantic

between the Surinam and Berbice rivers. During the night we altered our course, and, bearing off before the wind, stood down the coast with easy sail, keeping in five fathoms water.

January 3d. At 2 A. M. fell in with and boarded the General Hunter, merchant ship, bound for Demerara; and at 6 A. M., as day became perfectly clear, we stood in shore and ran down in three fathoms water. We could now barely distinguish the low land, though we could plainly see the trees and now and then a staring white planter's house, which had the appearance of being built on the water, so imperceptible was the land. At 10 A. M. discovered two windmills, which our captain mistook for the Kitty and Thomas, the property of Mr. T. Cummings, on the windward side of Demerara river, and which are general landmarks for all vessels entering it; but, after bearing down upon them for some time, he discovered his error, and, finding that they were considerably to leeward of the river, and

that we had consequently passed the proper channel to lead us in, he immediately hauled his wind, and stood out again to regain the point of entrance, in trying to do which our vessel struck hard and fast on an extensive bank of clay and sand, which runs out to a considerable distance to leeward and is called the Sugar Bank.

The vessel being so suddenly stopped in her course by this shock, all of us on deck were thrown flat upon our faces; and, after trying in vain every means in our power, with boats, cables, and anchors, to move her from her perilous situation, the captain determined to go on shore and solicit assistance.

I never saw distress more deeply marked on any man's countenance than his. He certainly was wholly to blame for having passed the Kitty and Thomas windmills without seeing them, and mistaking two others which had not the smallest resemblance; one of Mr. Cummings' mills having a flag-staff, from

which a flag is flying during the day, as a guide to the shipping coming into this river; whilst nothing of the sort was to be seen upon those which were mistaken for them.

Of course the owners of the ship in such a case as this would make him responsible for the cargo as well as the vessel, and, fortunately for him, the weather was fine and calm, otherwise he might have had our lives to answer for.

While the boat was preparing, he invited myself and Ensigns Grant and Gordon to accompany him on shore; and, after a tedious sail of three hours and a half through high breakers, as we neared the shallow coast I at last distinctly beheld the continent first discovered by that extraordinary navigator, Columbus. The finest trees were growing in wild luxuriance to the water's edge. The plantain-tree, the cocoa-nut, and the beautiful feathered cabbage-tree, were seen grouped among the stately wallaba, the lofty mana,

and other magnificent forest-trees. The tints of their foliage, with the clear ethereal sky, struck us with astonishment. We at length safely jumped from our boat on *terra firma*, after a voyage of thirty-nine days, the Brilliant being a fast sailer.

CHAPTER VI.

Town of Stabroek — Impressions on landing — Roads — Houses — Mode of Building — Fire-flies — The Barracks — Picture of Ensign Grant in borrowed Clothes — Hammocks — Crapauds — Mosquitoes — A Frightful Dream — West India Uniform — Colonel Nicholson — Quarters assigned to the New comers — Quarrelsome spirit among the Officers of the Royals.

We found the streets exceedingly wet and muddy, owing, as we were informed, to the heavy rains which had fallen for nearly a month without intermission; indeed some parts of the town of Stabroek were overflowed to such a degree that in many places the roads or streets were covered with water.

I cannot well describe our sensations at finding ourselves landed among a number of naked negroes. We all stared at them with horror and disgust, so powerfully do our European ideas of decency affect the imagi-

nation; and we could hardly partake of a miserable dinner at the wretched inn where we put up, because the attendant had nothing to cover his Herculean figure but a narrow slip of light blue cotton, which was fastened between his legs and tied round his waist.

After refreshing ourselves, we sallied forth with the determination of finding our way to the barracks, and reporting our arrival to the commanding officer: and, with due instructions from the landlord, we started, three Johnny Newcomes in a new world.

We found the road exactly to resemble most of those which I afterwards saw in Holland, straight as a line, with a canal or trench full of water on each side of it, behind the mud which had been thrown out; and on both sides stood a row of stiff-looking wooden houses, at irregular distances from each other. Some were neat enough, others decayed, old, and rotten, all of them without a single pane of glass in their windows, and raised from the humid earth by eight or ten

wooden or brick uprights, which supported the frames of the building at different heights from the ground, so as to allow a space underneath sufficient to keep the flooring dry by the passage of the air.

Some of them were ornamented with beautiful trees and shrubs planted round them, and most of the buildings were painted green, white, and yellow, each having a wooden bridge, according in size with the circumstances of the owner, to admit a carriage, horse, or foot passenger, from the highway, to drive, ride, or walk, over the canal up to the staircase of the dwelling. This staircase was invariably placed on the outside of the building, leading up to the first floor, and forming a balcony or landing-place at the doorway.

Every thing we saw amused and delighted us from its novelty, being so different from what we had been accustomed to in the Old World. It was some time before we perceived that the road on which we were walking

was an excellent one, owing to its being rendered hard and smooth by being covered with broken bricks, according to the practice of the Dutch in Holland.

Before we reached Fort William Frederick, we discovered the barracks standing at some distance back from the high-road, and we now had to turn up a narrow road leading to them with a canal on one side only.

The night, which comes on in this climate immediately after sunset, was rather dark, and we found it difficult to keep on the path, which was most dreadfully muddy, soft, and slippery; and the myriads of fireflies, which sparkled round us, darting through the air, and resembling the luminous meteor commonly called Will of the Wisp, struck us with such astonishment that Ensign Grant stepped up to his neck in the trench, from which we extricated him with the greatest difficulty. By keeping our eyes fixed on the lights in the barrack-windows, we at length reached it without further accident, and found

some few of our brother-officers smoking cigars and parading up and down a long gallery in front of their rooms. Among these we soon introduced ourselves, and, after undergoing a few questions relative to England and her prosperity, I found out where the adjutant of the regiment was to be seen, and to him I reported my arrival and that of my two companions. He appointed the next morning to introduce us to our commanding officer, Colonel Nicholson, who had arrived a few days before from Berbice. As there were no spare beds in the barrack, we were obliged to return in the dark to our miserable inn at Stabroek. Ensign Grant, having by this time contrived to borrow a suit of clothes and clean linen from a young officer, now cut a figure which made us burst with laughter. The young man who had rigged him out not being so thin or tall as my companion, of course the sleeves of his jacket and shirt reached but a short way below his elbows, and the trowsers, by the same rule,

were up to his knees: fortunately for him he was not to be put out of countenance, and, seeing us all ready to drop with laughter, he drily exclaimed, with his usual long and serious countenance, "Let him laugh that wins!"

We arrived without further accident at the house where we were to sleep. Here, after ordering beds to be prepared immediately, we seated ourselves in the wooden dining-room; and were rather surprised to see two male negroes enter with a bundle on each arm, which they laid upon the floor. These bundles proved to be three clean-looking white net cotton hammocks, destined for our reception; and in a trice they were hung up high from the floor by iron rings fastened into the sides of the room, near the roof, opposite to each other.

The landlord now entered, and, putting his hand into each of them, to try if they were well and securely hung, and turning round to us with a good-humoured broad Dutch coun-

tenance, he exclaimed: "It's good, mein herr." "Hoot callant, dunna ca' them good, for I had rather sleep in a trussle of strae than in such fleeing meshes as these," exclaimed Ensign Grant. The Dutchman, turning round to us, evidently understanding the Scotch language, which had a great affinity to his own, replied, that he had accommodated many of our countrymen who were in the same predicament as ourselves; and, opening one of them, with an arm stretched out and a little spring from the floor, he threw himself into the middle of it, exclaiming: "It's good for sleep!" to which my friend Grant replied: "'Tis an excellent contrivance!" seeing our fat host swinging in the air in a net and looking as cool as a cucumber.

The landlord now retiring, and wishing us a good night, we began to prepare ourselves for rest; and, although he had already shewn us how to enter these swinging beds, we found great difficulty in making ourselves comfortable in them. Our attempts

caused a considerable degree of merriment among us. We agreed to leave the windows open and sleep in the air, as we were nearly melting with heat; but when we had at length stretched ourselves and felt tolerably comfortable in our new beds, swinging like hams in the air, a resplendent moon now throwing her pale lustre into our room, the tranquillity of our first night on shore was suddenly disturbed by the most horrid noises I ever heard. Millions of enormous crapauds, a species of animal between a toad and a frog, of tremendous size, some of them being as large round as a plate, put their heads out from their holes on the land, and some from under the water, and sent forth screams which rattled in their throats in all the different keys of the gamut. Gordon, in his fright, sprang from his hammock, and came on the floor at full length, with such a thump as made our whole house shake again upon its stumps. Ensign Grant and myself were seated in our hammocks, staring with astonishment, while

Gordon, after a few hearty curses, crept again into his.

Quadrillions of hungry mosquitoes now thrust their lancets into us. The distressing noise which they made about our heads and faces, and the continual slapping of our bodies when we felt them biting, at last threw us into fevers. It was now nearly daylight, and balmy sleep had been denied us this first night in the New World, when, from sheer fatigue and distress, we all three began to close our eyes.

A horrid dream now came upon me, with such vivid force of representation, and so truly depicted on my mind, that on waking I believed every circumstance to have just taken place. Here it is.

My left arm had been placed under my head, in order to keep it raised, as I felt the want of a pillow: and methought I saw a naked black man of prodigious strength put his head in at the doorway to examine us. I pretended to be asleep. He advanced on

tiptoe, with a drawn dagger in his hand, and, passing the hammock in which Ensign Gordon was sleeping, came to mine with extreme caution. He stood for some time by my side, listening and putting down his head close to my mouth to hear if I slept or not. He raised the dagger, when I seized him, as I thought, by the wrist, just as he was striking at me, and awoke, calling out "Murder! murder!" still grasping, as I supposed, his hand in mine: instead of which it was my own left hand, that had lost all feeling, owing to the circulation of the blood being impeded by the weight of my head resting on it. I therefore kept pulling myself down in my hammock, and continued bawling out as loud as I could, "Murder! murder!" Poor Grant and Gordon, both frightened out of their senses, sprang from their resting-places, and, rushing up to the side of my hammock, exclaimed: "For God's sake, St. Clair, what is the matter?" On recognising them I now let go my left hand, which I still conceived

to belong to the negro; and, lifting up my head, began to fancy it was but a dream. Gordon, who had by this time reached the door, found it still locked as we had left it the night before; on which both my companions laughed at me for being such a fool as to disturb them, and again retired to rest. But, the sun soon afterwards bursting forth in all his vigour, it was now useless for us to attempt to gain any further repose. This first night's trial of suspension we all agreed to be abominable, and it became pleasant to us by use and practice alone.

We were up early: and, dressing ourselves in the strict uniform which at this time was used in the West Indies, that is, a round hat, cockade, and small feather at the side, a regimental jacket, Russia duck pantaloons, with sash and a small dirk hanging by a waist-belt to our sides, away we went to the adjutant of our corps for the purpose of being introduced to our commanding officer.

He conducted us to the commandant's

house, near Fort William Frederick, and, on being introduced to him, we were received with marked attention and kindness. Colonel Nicholson was a stout, portly man, whom I supposed to be nearly sixty years of age, having a good-humoured countenance, his hair cut strictly according to regimental orders, and tied in a thick queue. After a few common questions, he asked me if I was not acquainted with some of his relations, mentioning their names, in Edinburgh, and, on my replying in the affirmative, question followed question, until, shaking me by the hand, he turned round to the adjutant, and desired him to order the quarter-master to allot rooms in the officers' barracks for our accommodation.

Our baggage, with my favourite dog, was now landed from the Brilliant, a number of colonial schooners having gone off to her early this morning to unload her cargo, and I really expected that my poor friend Pincher would have gone distracted with joy at seeing

me after a night's separation. A good sized room was now assigned to me on the first-floor, and another up-stairs for the two ensigns, as there was not accommodation in the barrack for us all separately. We gave the upstairs room to Grant, and Gordon with myself occupied the other; for, as the colonel informed me, before quitting him, that I should be appointed to a company then quartered in Berbice, I thought that my stay in this colony would be short.

We now heard for the first time that a bad spirit of quarrelling had been introduced among the officers in garrison, and that Lieutenant Arquimbo, of the Royals, was at this moment not expected to live, having been shot through the body by Lieutenant M'Beth, only a few days before we landed. Another duel had since taken place; and I learned that the motive of Colonel Nicholson's visit was to make the necessary inquiries into the causes of these disputes. At the mess-table I noticed a great reserve among the officers,

as if each considered himself liable to a challenge for expressing his ideas upon any subject whatever.

I followed the advice of my old colonel, to keep myself out of scrapes, which I did during the week I spent here in making the following observations on the colony of Demerara.

CHAPTER VII.

Demerara River — Fort William Frederick — The Town — Roads and Streets — The Government-house — Negro-gaol — The Court-house and Church — Deficiency of Fresh Water — Stores or Shops — Provisions — Native Mistresses of Europeans — Creole Women — Miss Fanny — Boundaries of Demerara — Rivers — Colony of Essequibo — Rivers and Creeks — Fate of the Brilliant.

The three colonies of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice, surrendered to the British flag on the 23d April, 1796, to an expedition under the orders of General White.

I found the Demerara river about two miles in breadth at its entrance, which is in latitude 6° 40′ north and longitude 57° 45′ west.

On the east bank of the Demerara, a little below the entrance, is situated Fort William Frederick, a small fortification, composed of mud and fascines, formed of two platforms, but so low that at high water a frigate might

fire directly into it. In the rear of the fort is the General-commandant's house, with a few scattered quarters of officers, called the Camp. In front of this house is the Garrison parade, and about a quarter of a mile from it stand the New Barracks, in which the king's troops are stationed. These then consisted of the 1st battalion of Royals, and a detachment of a black corps of the 4th West India Regiment.

From Fort William Frederick the town, or settlement, extends a considerable distance up the river, consisting of a long row of scattered houses, intersected and divided from each other by canals and dykes, or embankments, which, added to the flatness of the country, produce an exact resemblance to Holland.

The houses are built of wood and painted in various colours, according to the fancy of the owners. They are raised from the ground upon supports, to prevent damps from affecting them, and they chiefly consist of stores

for merchandise on sale, where goods of various countries are vended. These buildings are placed without order or regularity.

The most ancient part of this town, called Stabroek, runs back from the river towards the forest, and consists of two rows of houses, a full mile in length; and the road between them is of considerable breadth. For the convenience of these houses, a large canal is cut at the back of them, which communicates with the river. In warm weather this canal becomes a great nuisance, owing to the stagnated mud, and the quantity of filth which is constantly thrown into it.

The roads and streets throughout the town are covered with broken brick, which becomes consolidated and makes a dry pathway even in rainy weather; indeed they would here be impassable in wet weather without this precaution, as all the roads in this country are formed from the contents of the trenches, which are emptied every ten or twelve months.

The Government-house, small and inconvenient for the representative of majesty, is situated in this street, having immediately opposite to it a large wooden building, which the Dutch call the barrack or gaol, and which is generally too well filled with unfortunate culprits.

In the rear is a dark shed or black hole, in which the criminal negroes are confined, without light and consequently without air, many of them for years after having been proved guilty of the crime with which they are charged; as the Dutch law, which is still retained in these ceded colonies, does not permit a culprit to be executed until he himself confesses his guilt. Owing to this law, many of these wretches die miserably in close confinement; for, so sweet is life, that they suffer every torment and distress rather than yield it of their own accord.

The Court-house, an old tottering building, supported with poles, is near the river, and consists of two apartments, the upper used

for the court, the lower as a place of divine worship, in which service is performed every Sunday and prayers are read, first by a Dutch and afterwards by an English clergyman.

From the church may be seen the decayed and rotten condition of the flooring of the Court-house, which is a perfect emblem of the state of the laws in this colony.

The river Demerara is navigable for ships of burden for a considerable distance from its entrance, and its banks were at one time cultivated for above one hundred miles into the interior; but the planters, finding the lower parts of the river and the sea-coast more profitable and congenial to the cultivation of cotton, sugar, and coffee, have deserted the upper parts and settled nearer to the sea.

As no springs are to be met with, except in the interior of the country, many miles from Stabroek and the sea-coast, each house is provided with vats or cisterns and pipes to conduct the rain-water from the roof; but,

as this supply is inadequate to the wants of families during the dry season, they are obliged to send, at an enormous expence, a considerable distance up the country for clear water: but this is so strongly impregnated with vegetable matter as to be of a yellowish tint, and it is very pernicious to the stomach which is unaccustomed to it.

The inhabitants, particularly the Dutch, sleep in hammocks slung from the roof, having a thin muslin curtain suspended over them to keep off the mosquitoes, which abound in this country; whilst the slaves employed in domestic labour lie promiscuously, male and female, rolled up in their blankets on the boards, in the passages, or on the stairs.

The stores or shops are tolerably well supplied with English articles every four or five months by the arrival of merchant-ships; but these are generally sold at a most exorbitant rate by the storekeepers, who exact for some commodities one hundred per cent. above

the prime cost. Fresh meat and vegetables are scarce, as the market is only held on Sunday, that being generally a holiday for the plantation negroes, who bring in poultry, vegetables, and fruit, but in very small quantities. I have known a negro walk eight or ten miles to sell a starved fowl, together with a small basket of ocros *, yams, or peas, which are the only vegetables they cultivate: and these they raise merely to obtain the means of procuring tobacco, to which they are passionately addicted, or some cheap kind of ornament for their favourite fair.

The troops in garrison are regularly supplied twice a week with fresh beef, which is contracted for, but is frequently so bad that the soldiers refuse to eat it. The contractor imports all his cattle from North America. These are slaughtered immediately

* The ocro grows upon a very small shrub with oblong leaves, and consists of a pod of a slimy, mucilaginous nature, and, though disgusting in appearance when boiled, yet, being of a ropy or glutinous quality, it makes a rich sauce when properly seasoned.

after their arrival, in a starved and bruised state from their voyage, and generally in a high fever from the heat of the climate.

The creole beef is furnished by an animal born and reared in the country and taken great care of by the proprietor; it is fat and tender, but difficult to be procured, as it is generally fed by a few comfortable planters, who take the trouble of breeding these cattle for their own table. The creole sheep, which is covered with hair in the place of wool, and has long pendent ears, likewise furnishes excellent meat: but the generality of the planters and rich merchants, with the exception of but few of the Dutch families who breed these cattle, seem to entertain but one idea, in which all their thoughts and feelings are concentrated, and money, that prime necessary of human comfort, is their only object. To amass this they abide for years in unwholesome and miserable situations, sacrificing health and the best years of their lives in discomfort and wretchedness, in the

hope of returning to their native country with a fortune.

The first thing generally done by a European on his arrival in this country is to provide himself with a mistress from among the blacks, mulattoes, or mestees, for here they are to be found of all the different shades of colour—

> "The Sambo black, and the mulatto brown,
> The mestee fair, and the well-limbed quadroon."

The price varies from £100 to £150. Many of these girls read and write; and most of them are free. Some of them are tasteful and extravagant in their dress, but inviolable in their attachment, and scarcely a particle of inconstancy can ever be established against them. They perform all the duties of a wife except presiding at table, and their utility in domestic affairs, their cleanliness, and their politeness, are acknowledged by all. Two of our officers were living in barracks with two of these girls; one in Demerara, Lieutenant Myers, had a beautiful young mulatto, and

Lieutenant Clark, in Berbice, had with him a fine handsome black woman. Though I disapproved of this system, which, on my first arrival, appeared to me an outrage on common decency and propriety, it being necessary in the army to set a good example to the soldiers—for how was Hannibal's army ruined but by women and luxury? —yet I was at last obliged to alter my opinion, as I saw both the above-mentioned officers saved from certain death by the uncommon care and attention which these two girls paid to them during a violent attack of fever. Their attachment to their partners was strong and sincere. The natives in Surinam, as Stedman says in his Journal, published in 1796, conceive it to be a rite of hospitality to offer their daughters to strangers; and the girls in this colony exult in living with a European, whom in general they serve with the utmost tenderness and fidelity. Nay, so little is the practice condemned, that, while they continue faithful and constant to the

protectors by whom they are chosen, they are always countenanced and encouraged by their nearest relations and friends, who call this a lawful marriage for the time it lasts.

From the excesses of their husbands, the creole or white native ladies generally appear in widows' weeds at a very early period, with the agreeable privilege of making another choice, which they are not long in doing. It has frequently happened that a widow has buried four husbands, but it is rare to meet with a man who has survived one wife. For this reason a good proverb prevails, that "tropical ladies and tropical mosquitoes have an instinctive preference for newly arrived Europeans."

In one of my rambles through the town of Stabroek, I was one evening amused at the extraordinary conversation carried on between three black women: one of them, a stout impudent-looking hussy, was standing in the road; the second seated in the balcony of her house, fanning herself; the other, an older

woman, was mounting the staircase. I was just in time to hear the last speech of Miss Fanny, who exclaimed, and not in the most delicate manner:

"Ante Seri, me tell you true; Miss Fanny, [this was herself] no care for buckra. She hab my tree chintz gown, my four muslin gown, my fine shawls, that cost me a joe apiece, my two nigger-wenches [meaning slaves—she herself was as black as a coal] my house in Tabrock, my two sows in pig, and my tree chests full of good fine clothes. Buckra, me no care for you. Me, me, me,—Miss Fanny! you tink me tand like dem cra-cra girls. Kabba, kabba, me Miss Fanny!"

This speech ended with a toss of her head in the air, to show that Miss Fanny did pride herself a little upon her wealth; and, tucking up her blue petticoat behind, and showing a pair of legs stout enough to carry the body of an ox, away she strutted to take her evening promenade, opening a green parasol to shade her delicate complexion from the sun.

Her dress was like that of most of the free black women of this country. A clean white handkerchief is tied round the head, something like a turban; on the top of this is placed a little black, red, or yellow hat, so exceedingly small, as if made for a little infant, which is stuck on in its place by means of a long pin, run through it and the turban. A short white bedgown, without any stays, was the only upper garment; a blue petticoat with bright coloured borders, black legs, and coloured shoes, of which they are as fond as the Spanish ladies, completed her equipment.

This poor black creature thought as much of herself as any princess in Europe could have done; and such is the effect of riches all the world over: for, had they consisted only in what she had just stated, it was enough to make her a person of great consequence among her tawny neighbours. I often say with Solomon:—"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!"

The colony of Demerara, which derives its

name from the river, is bounded on the east by the Albany creek; this takes its course from the interior of the country, and, running in a northerly direction, empties itself into the Atlantic Ocean. The western limits are marked by the small creek Bonnosique, a distance of twenty miles up the great river Essequibo: formerly the Boesicay creek was the western boundary, but by an act passed by Governor Bentinck, in 1806, it was extended to the present limits.

The southerly limits are undetermined, being a boundless tract of almost impenetrable forest, thinly inhabited by the wild Indians, through which innumerable small creeks and rivers take their winding course, and empty themselves, with few exceptions, into the larger streams, such as the Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice, Corantine, and Surinam. All these run in a northerly direction, at the rate of six or seven knots an hour, and in the rainy season even at ten knots, entering the sea with such force as

to discolour the water of the ocean to an astonishing distance from land. Owing to the strong current of these rivers, a bank of mud is generally formed across the channel, about six or seven miles from its entrance, which circumstance renders the navigation of these rivers difficult to those unacquainted with the nature of the coast. The bar of Demerara has, at low water, eleven feet, and rises to eighteen. The bottom, being soft, does not injure vessels, which frequently run on it, and wait for the tide to float them off.

The Colony of Essequibo adjoins to Demerara, being under the same governor, and is our most leeward possession in this country. The creek or river, called Morocco, is the boundary line between this colony and the Spanish Main, which is not far from the Pomeron creek.

Besides the four great rivers above-named, there are numerous smaller ones, called, in this country, creeks, but which in Europe would be considered large rivers. The prin-

cipal of them is the Mahaica, which runs about twenty miles to windward of the Demerara, between that river and the Albany creek. At the entrance of the Mahaica is a small military post, with a battery of two guns, to prevent a surprize from an enemy by sea, and it is at present commanded by Lieutenant M'Beth of the Royals.

From its being rather more openly situated to the breeze of the trade-winds than any other place in these colonies, it has been considered the most healthy spot in this part of the country, and all the convalescents from the garrison in Demerara, and sometimes Berbice, are sent thither for recovery, and generally with good effect.

The Maicony creek is likewise on the east or windward coast, and not very far from the Mahaica.

The Boesary is on the leeward coast, near the river Essequibo. Others, too numerous to mention here, empty themselves into the large rivers as tributary streams.

I made frequent inquiries after our unfortunate ship the Brilliant, and now heard that she had been emptied of her cargo, which was landed in safety by colonial boats; that every trial had been made to remove her from her perilous situation, but without success, as she became each day deeper embedded in the sand; and the crew, having previously taken out her masts, spars, and rigging, left the hull to its fate. The captain returned home a passenger in the Ariadne, and what he lost for his want of foresight I have never been able to ascertain.

CHAPTER VIII.

Journey to Berbice with Colonel Nicholson—Mr. Cummings' Estate — Mr. Heathcot's — Description of the House—Little Johnny—The Negro Huts—The Plaintain Tree—The Banana—The Peccary—Cane-fields—Shooting Guinea-fowl—The Shaddock—The Forbidden Fruit—The Grenadilla—The Marrow-pear—Troop of Baboons—Description of a Sugar Plantation—Sugar-mills—Method of Planting the Canes—Invasion of Sugar Estates by Wild Animals.

My name now appeared in regimental orders to proceed to Berbice, to join the 7th company, to which I was appointed; and on the 9th January, 1806, I left Demerara with our commanding officer, Colonel Nicholson, who was kind enough to offer me a seat in his gig. No such things as inns or public accommodation are to be met with on the roads in this wild country, and we therefore stopped to refresh ourselves and horses at such planters' houses as we found most convenient, and they all received us with marked attention and liberal hospitality.

We halted the first day to refresh the horses at Mr. Cummings' estate, upon which stood the fatal windmills that the Brilliant was doomed to miss on her entrance to the Demerara, and thence proceeded to Mr. Heathcot's sugar plantation, on the Mahaica creek. Before reaching it we got wet to the skin, which is a common occurrence with travellers in the rainy season in this climate; for here it never rains but it pours, and I will defy great-coats or cloaks to resist it. We were detained for three days at this plantation, owing to the heavy rains, which fell without intermission; and nothing pleased me more, during my sojourn here, than to observe the great attention and esteem shewn by all the members of Mr. Heathcot's family to my commanding officer. Immediately on our arrival, they hurried us up to our rooms to change our wet clothes; and, after partaking of a good dinner, with a few dishes which I had never before seen or heard of, we concluded the evening with a rubber at whist.

The next morning I found my boots and clothes placed in my room, and commenced dressing myself. I had scarcely begun to pull on one of the boots, when, with a loud crash, like the tearing of brown paper, the leg separated from the foot; and I found that Master Mungo, the house attendant, having been over anxious to dry them well for me to put on in the morning, had placed them so near a large wood fire that he had completely burned them to a cinder. Fortunately I had a pair of shoes with me in the gig, which supplied their place, nor would I mention for the world what had happened, as I feared that the whip might be applied to poor Mungo's back in recompence for his stupidity.

As the sugar-cane will not thrive on the sea-coast, this plantation was situated a few miles up the creek, and buried in the wood, a very large space of which had been cleared ready for cultivation. The house was raised above the damps of the earth, in the manner that I have already stated all the

buildings in this colony to be, on upright posts fixed in the ground, upon which were laid strong beams, and on these was built the dwelling house, consisting of a dining-room, withdrawing-room, and the planter's own room, on the first floor; which all communicated with a central passage, running directly through the building from the front entrance to the back-door. The floor above was laid out in six small bed-rooms: and on descending from the back-door there was a yard, bordered on three sides by low wooden buildings, one side of which was occupied by the kitchen and offices, for some Negro servants; a second, by the stables; and the third side by store-rooms. This day the rain never ceased pouring, and I found it rather dull to be obliged to make up a fourth at a whist-table from breakfast time till dinner.

The next morning set in with the usual accompaniment of torrents of rain, which never ceased until the third morning when we were at breakfast, the sun then making

his appearance through the dark clouds: but it was determined by our colonel not to start until the following morning, in order to give time to the waters to make their way into the sea.

Whilst at breakfast, Mr. Heathcot sent for little Johnny, and gave him orders to shoot two or three guinea-fowl, in which sport I offered to accompany him. On our way to the back of the plantation, with little Johnny's gun in my hand, shortly after leaving the house, we passed through rows of small Negro huts, among which I could only observe a few emaciated, sick, and even pale-looking, Negroes—I say pale, as it was easy to observe an unwholesome whiteness even through their thick black skins. A number of fine children were gamboling along the road, and, on seeing me approach, scampered off to hide themselves, just as wild animals do from their pursuer. All the healthy Negroes were at work on the estate.

A few fine plantain trees completed the

picture, as they were seen now and then drooping their luxuriant foliage over the humble huts, which were composed of the palm-leaves from the manicolo tree, twisted and beautifully worked together.

The plantain tree grows to the height of from sixteen to twenty feet, throwing out its leaves in the form of an umbrella from the top of its stem. They are of a shining sea-green till they fade, when they hang down in tatters, as their places are supplied by the young ones, which open and expand from the top. From the centre of these grows a strong stalk about three feet long, that bends downward with the weight of its purple head, which exactly resembles a calf's heart, and on this stalk grow the plantains in the shape of cucumbers, to the number of one hundred, more or less, in what is usually called a bunch, each tree bearing no more than one of these at a time.

This fruit, being divested of its husk, when green, has in the inside a pale yellow farina-

ceous substance, which, when either boiled or roasted, serves the Negroes as a substitute for bread. It has an agreeable taste, and is wholesome. When it is ripe the inside turns yellow and soft, and may be eaten raw, having a rather agreeable flavour: but, when arrived at this degree of maturity, it is only used by way of dessert.

There is another species of the plantain called banana, which differs only in its fruit being smaller and more oval. This is never eaten until it becomes ripe, when it has the flavour of musk, and is, of course, considered by far the more delicate, though not so useful as the first.

Near to some of their huts I perceived a few pig-sties. In one of these I observed a young wild boar, of the kind called, in this country, the peccary, or Mexican hog. This species is supposed to be indigenous to Guiana, and will not intermix with either the wild or domestic hog; it is remarkable for having an orifice on the back, from which

oozes a fetid liquor. Some compare it to musk, but in reality it is so very disagreeable that the instant the animal is killed the natives cut away the part with a knife, to prevent its infecting the flesh and rendering it uneatable.

The length of this animal is about three feet when full grown. It has no tail, exceedingly fine limbs, short tusks, and whitish grey bristles, which on the back are very long, whilst on the sides and on the belly they are both short and thinly scattered. These creatures have a light-coloured mark, which comes down from the shoulders on each side of the breast, somewhat like a horse-collar. They are frequently met with in the woods, where they run in large droves, and when irritated they are exceedingly vicious and mischievous. Their grunt is loud and disagreeable.

All the Negro huts which I now passed through were standing with doors or windows open, which proved to me that the practice of

house-breaking was not known in this country, or rather that they were not possessed of any thing worth stealing; as I afterwards found that theft is one of the natural propensities of human nature, and stronger in the savage than in the educated man.

We next passed through fields of sugar-canes, which were growing in great luxuriance; and little Johnny, directing me to keep on the straight road, dashed into one of them, and, perceiving his movements by the shaking of the canes, I followed parallel to him. The noise of guinea-fowl on the wing soon attracted my attention, and, observing them flying across the road at a short distance in front of me, I took aim at and killed the last of them. Johnny now returned to me, while loading the gun, to ascertain my skill in using it: no sooner did he see the bird lying on the road, than he exclaimed in rapture: "Buckra, him dam well kill!" and grinning, whilst he displayed a beautiful set of white teeth, off he ran, laughing and clapping his hands, to

bring in the game. "Now, Johnny," said I, "you must go after the birds and drive them back again;" but he, not liking this task, shook his head and answered, "Massa, him gane." Pointing higher up, and further to the left, he said: "Massa, him plenty dere." We proceeded nearly to the forest which backed the plantation, and, turning to the left, we now entered groves of trees bearing the most delicious fruit. The beautiful plantain and banana tree abounded here, whilst on each side of the road were rows of the shaddock, the forbidden fruit, the grenadilla, the marrow pear, &c.

The shaddock is supposed to have been transplanted from Guinea by a Captain Shaddock, whose name it still bears throughout the West Indies. The fruit has all the appearance of belonging to the orange species, and is divided in the same manner by a thin skin into several quarters: but it is as large as a melon, and of a most agreeable and refreshing flavour between sweet and acid.

The outer coat, or skin, is extremely thick, of a bitterish taste, and a pale yellow or citron colour, very like in appearance to the skin of a lemon. There are two species of the shaddock. The pulp or inside of one is white, that of the other a beautiful pale red. The last is considered the most wholesome. This fruit a European may indulge in with safety, and it is almost the only one in this climate, excepting the orange, that will not injure him on his first arrival.

The forbidden fruit is a species of the shaddock, only smaller and more delicate, while the outer skin is less coarse. Its juice and the flavour of the inside are quite delicious in a West Indian climate.

The grenadilla is another excellent fruit, contained in a green soft husk, which is produced by a large passion-flower. The husk is filled with a sweet and most agreeable liquid, having the seeds in the centre; and the manner of eating it is to cut off one of the ends, and mix up in it Madeira wine

and sugar, stirring it all up together; this renders it safe and wholesome for the stomach. It is of the size of a small melon.

The marrow-pear in this country is called the avogato, or vegetable marrow, from its resemblance to this substance, and is produced on a tree about the size of the European walnut-tree. The fruit is in form like an English pear, of a light green colour, contained in a thin skin, which, when cut open, exhibits a substance exactly resembling marrow, having a kernel in its centre. The pulp is generally eaten with pepper and salt, melting in the mouth, and is certainly a delicious morsel.

The fine perfume from flowers and fruit now saluting my senses made me loiter to examine their quality, when Johnny exclaimed, "Massa! cookee want him." This hint made me push on to a piece of ground covered with guinea-corn, into which he again sprang, and soon started five or six more guinea-fowl, one of which I easily shot. This he seized by the head and started

for home. I followed him down a straight road leading back to Mr. Heathcot's house, when a loud and furious scream, from the top of one of the trees, startled me, and induced me to stand still: "Him dam macoco," said little Johnny. "Heree! heree, Massa! heree him run!" I looked where he pointed, and saw nearly fifty large baboons, scouring, from the tops of the fruit-trees across the road, towards the forest, having taken the alarm from their sentinel, who had been perched on the top of a high tree to keep a look-out on the enemy while the rest regaled themselves; and, not having loaded my gun after the last shot, I now lost the opportunity of bringing down one of these animals.

The fourth morning was ushered in tolerably fine, the rains having partially ceased; and the colonel determined to pursue his journey on horseback; that is to say, that I should ride his gig-horse, and himself his old bay charger; leaving his servant, Ogilvie, with the gig, until the horse should return for him.

Before leaving this estate I cannot help giving a short account of a sugar plantation. Its mills were worked by the waters of the Mahaica creek. On some few estates in this country, where water is scarce, they are worked by mules or cattle, while those in the West India islands are generally worked by the wind.

The machinery consists of three large rollers, either of iron or stone; and so very dangerous is the work of those Negroes who feed these rollers, that, should even one of their fingers be caught between them, which happens sometimes from carelessness, the whole arm, and sometimes even part of the body, is instantly drawn in and shattered to pieces. A hatchet is generally kept in readiness to chop off the limb before the mill can be stopped.

When the juice is extracted from the cane, it is conveyed by wooden pipes, or grooved beams, to the boiling-house, where it is received in a cistern, and thence conducted

into the first copper caldron, filtering through a small grating, to keep back the trash which may have escaped from the mill. Here it is allowed to boil for some time, and after being scummed it is ladled into the next caldron, and so on, till the fifth boils it sufficiently. Opposite to these boilers are the coolers, which are large, square, flat-bottomed, wooden vessels, such as I have seen used in Scotland for crystallizing salt: into these the liquid sugar is now poured and left to cool.

Near these coolers are placed, in rows, the hogsheads into which the sugar, when perfectly cold, is thrown; they having holes bored through their bottoms to permit the escape of the molasses, which, as it drops from them, is conveyed into a square cistern placed underneath the flooring to receive it.

Adjoining this apartment is the distillery, in which the dross or scum of the boilers, with the molasses, is converted into a kind of rum called kill-devil. Every estate in these colonies keeps its own boats and other

craft for the conveyance of its produce for embarkation to Europe, having a covered dock to keep them under.

The sugar estates in these colonies generally consist of from six hundred to a thousand acres. The land is divided into squares of considerable extent, where pieces of cane, about one foot long, are stuck into the ground in rows. They usually plant them in the rainy season, when the earth is well soaked; and the shoots, that spring from their joints, take about twelve or sixteen months to arrive at maturity, when they turn yellow, are about the thickness of a man's wrist, and from eight to fourteen feet in height, exhibiting a beautiful appearance. Their leaves, of a pale green and of considerable length, hang down and fade as the cane becomes ready for cutting.

The principal work of the slaves after planting is to keep the ground clear of weeds, which would otherwise impoverish the produce. Some sugar estates have four hundred

and some a thousand Negroes employed upon them, and derive an annual income from their labour of from £8,000 to £20,000. The cultivation, the grinding, and the boiling, of the sugar-cane, are the most harassing work required by any of the productions in this climate; and, though the cotton and coffee estates might, perhaps, be worked by white men accustomed to the torrid zone, yet sugar can only be produced by Blacks.

All the sugar estates in these colonies are closely surrounded by the uncultivated forest, whence herds of wild deer, wild hogs, and monkeys, sally forth, and commit such ravages, that frequently all the Negroes are called out to hunt them off the property back into the woods.

CHAPTER IX.

Road from Demerara to Berbice—Scenery—The Cotton Plant —Method of Cultivation—Spinning Cotton—Berbice River —York Redoubt—Fort St. Andrews—Reception of the Author and his Dog Pincher—The Garrison Boat—New Amsterdam—Negro Girls Bathing—Captain Yates—Lieutenant Torrens—Ensign Middleton, the Walking Army List —Sporting Propensity of Captain Yates—Crab Island— Great height of the Trees—Anecdote of a Parrot—The Egrette—The Red-headed Woodpecker—Vindication of that Bird from the charge of injuring Trees—The Knife-grinder, or Rhinoceros-beetle—Rat Hunting—Extraordinary Method of Bagging this kind of Game alive.

THE road from Demerara to Berbice runs at no great distance from the sea-shore in front of the plantations; the owners of which are obliged to repair and keep in order that part which borders their own property.

It is the duty of the fiscal, who now and then visits different parts of the colony for the purpose, to see that the roads are kept in good repair; and such owners of estates as

neglect their portion he immediately fines, reserving one-third of the amount as his own perquisite.

In dry weather there cannot be finer roads in any country; they are then smooth and level as a bowling-green, without a stone or hill: but, in the rainy season, owing to the quantity of clay, they frequently become impassable, which we now found to be the case, the horses sinking up to their knees at every step*. The scenery we passed through on this journey, for a distance of eighty miles, had not the least variety, being a continued line of cotton plantations along the sea-coast, with here and there a stiff wooden building, painted white and green, the forest in the back-ground being the only relief.

The cotton shrub was first planted on this coast about the year 1735; but it was not cultivated to any great advantage until the

* In October, 1833, Major General Sir Benjamin D'Urban, K. C. B., who had just returned from these colonies, informed me that these roads are now excellent, being all repaired with brick, as the streets were in Stabroek in my time.

year 1752. Though there are several different species of this plant, I shall confine myself to the one grown in this country, which is a tree about six or eight feet high, and bears in the first twelvemonth after planting, producing two crops annually. Its leaves in shape much resemble those of the vine, and are of a bright green. The flower was of a delicate yellow, and the cotton is formed in a large round green pod, which opens when the seed becomes ripe, and discloses the contents as white as flakes of snow. In the middle of this are a quantity of small black seeds, which are scattered by the wind; the cotton being intended by nature to act as their support through the air, as is the case with many of our European seeds. This plant will prosper in any of the tropical climates, and produce most profitable crops, if not injured by heavy rains, being easily cultivated and with little expence. The separation of the seed from the pulp, or cotton, is also no great trouble; after this it is ready for packing into bales

of between three and four hundred pounds weight each, for transportation.

A good cotton estate will make about 25,000 pounds weight at each crop, and the average price is from eight pence to two shillings per pound; this variation in price is of course owing to the abundance or scarcity of the season. The Indian women, natives of this country, and the African slave, use a rock and spindle, with which they work this substance into threads, just as I have seen the common Scotch lassie in Edinburgh working with hemp; but, the use of linen not being known among them, they have not the art of weaving it into sheets, table-cloths, and bed-linen; though they contrive, with their rough machinery, to form it into handsome hammocks, which they dispose of at high prices.

On this journey we passed the Mahaica creek, the Maicony creek, and the Abary creek, by means of a large boat, pulled over by an old Negro. These small rivers were

uncommonly deep, and their waters all of a dark brown colour, or almost black, owing to the quantity of leaves from the trees, and other vegetable matter, which fall into them. The Abary is the frontier of the Demerara colony.

We did not reach the ferry-house, situated on the left bank of the Berbice river, before the 15th of January; and, finding the garrison-boat waiting for us, we immediately crossed to Fort St. Andrews, in time for dinner.

We rode the colonel's horses into a small redoubt, containing a party of artillerymen, and gave them in charge to the serjeant who commanded. This is called York Redoubt, and was placed in this situation to defend the left entrance to this river. The channel, on the right of Crab island, which is the principal entrance for ships of burden, is defended by Fort St. Andrews. A signal-post to communicate down the coast with Demerara is erected on this small redoubt, and the signals are carried on by means of

artillerymen stationed on different plantations, within sight of each other.

Fort St. Andrews is situated on the right bank of the river Berbice, nearly opposite to the York Redoubt; and, on our approaching it, we distinctly saw the officers of this garrison collecting near the landing place to welcome back their commanding officer, who was a great favourite with them all. I soon went through an introduction to my new friends, some of whom appeared to be pleasant fellows; but my poor dog Pincher, who had followed me from the boat, was not quite as well received by the garrison curs, who, smelling him to be a stranger, made a bold and sudden attack on him. The poor fellow defended himself bravely, but was nearly overcome by numbers, when some of the young officers rushed to his assistance, and separated the combatants.

I found a room in the barracks, which were situated close to and on the outside of the fort, ready prepared for my quarters; and

my baggage, which had arrived two days before in a colonial schooner, all arranged in it; so that in half an hour after my arrival my bed was put up, and I was as comfortable, with my things about me, as any of my brother officers who had been for years in the same situation.

Immediately after breakfast the next morning, the colonel ordered the garrison boat, which was a complete Dutch-built concern, to convey us to the settlement of New Amsterdam, to wait upon the governor. This boat, though large and commodious, was rapidly pulled against the stream by six stout Negroes, who tugged very manfully at the oar, all singing and keeping time with the splash of the water. Their method of rowing was to stand up at each pull and fall back again upon the seats, thus adding the weight of their bodies to the strength of their arms.

On nearing the Government House, I observed a long wooden pier, which ran out

for some distance, supported on stakes, and perceived a number of young women of colour jumping from it stark naked. They crowded round the boat, dashing about us just like dolphins in all directions, some tumbling in the water like the porpoise, others floating on their backs and trying to splash us. Good humour was so forcibly depicted on their countenances that I felt my own features beginning to relax, which the old colonel observing, burst into a laugh, exclaiming: "Well, Johnny Newcome, this sight makes the blacks white in your eyes."

On gaining the top of the pier we had to pass among several of these girls, some taking off and others putting on the only garment they wore, which was a petticoat. All these young women were slaves belonging to government, and inhabited huts a short distance in the rear of the house, which is near the river, in the centre of the town. After undergoing an introduction to the governor, General Murray, we returned to the fort to dinner.

I soon formed an intimacy with my brother officers, among whom I found three or four excellent companions: Captain Yates, at present a general officer in our service, a more extraordinary or amusing character never existed; Lieutenant Torrens, related to the late Sir Henry of that name, adjutant-general to the forces, an Irishman full of wit and humour, but who unfortunately some years afterwards was killed in North America; and Ensign Middleton, or, as we then called him, *the walking Army List*, from his extraordinary faculty of remembering the names, rank, and regiments, of individuals, who at this moment is a lieutenant-colonel at the Maidstone Cavalry depôt, under the gallant Colonel Brotherton.

Yates was, of all people I ever met with, the most determined sportsman: his whole time and thoughts were given up to the chase, and he soon enlisted me under his banner, notwithstanding the advice of Colonel Nicholson, who informed me that nothing was

more pernicious to a European constitution than exposure to the damps and heats of this climate.

Crab island, which lay off the fort, was for a length of time the scene of our sports. It abounded with green parrots, and all that we killed was given to the messman for the purpose of making into a dish, called here pepper-pot, which supplied our breakfast.

In these expeditions we were frequently up to our armpits in mud and water, under a vertical sun, and constantly beset with a host of mosquitoes, which would nearly devour us alive. Still we persevered in scrambling through the wood, which consisted of very tall trees, but absolutely valueless, owing to the softness of the timber, caused by the lowness of the island. Of the height of these trees some notion may be formed from the following circumstance: Captain Yates having fired at a parrot, seated on a branch at the top of one of them, the bird was a little surprised at the report of the gun, and, cunningly putting

his head on one side, looked down to see what we were about; then, turning round, he commenced pluming his feathers as if nothing had happened. This species is the common green and yellow parrot, or papagui, of Guiana, which abounded on this island.

The snow-white egrette was another of the birds which frequented it, and takes its name from the delicate and beautiful plume on its breast, which adorns the heads of the lovely females in all the courts of Europe. This charming bird is rather smaller than a heron, which it resembles in shape, the bill being black. They were so abundant on this coast that at last we became tired of firing at them, though they were so easily shot.

Frequently the hammering of the red-headed woodpecker resounded through the stillness of the scene, so loudly that we could never have supposed it to proceed from the bill of a bird. We often met with it at all hours of the day, as these birds have no particular time for feeding, which must arise

from the difficulty of their providing themselves with food. The noise they make against the trunk of a tree exactly resembles the blow of a woodman's axe, to ascertain its soundness. There are numerous species of this bird, from the size of a pigeon down to that of a wren. All of these are beautiful, and the heads of some of them ornamented with a crest, which is moveable at pleasure.

This unfortunate bird has been most wrongfully accused of injuring the precious and stately timber to be met with on the estates of rich proprietors in Europe as well as America; but, had he the power possessed by Ovid's birds, in days of yore, he would thus address them:—

"Mighty lords of the earth, your cruelty to me is great. Why hunt me to death? You bring me down headlong from the trees in your forest, shot by the fire of your guns, at the very moment that I am working in your service. I have never injured a leaf of your property, and much less damaged your wood.

Watch me only for one day, and you will find that I never wound a sound tree; for, if I did so, I must perish from starvation, as the healthy bark would occupy too much of my time to force my bill through it, and, after succeeding, I should find nothing suitable to my taste, or digestible for my stomach. I sometimes visit them, it is true, but a knock soon informs me if it is necessary or not to proceed; and if you would but attentively listen to my labour, the sound which my bill causes would infallibly inform you whether I am working on a sound or an unhealthy tree. Neither the wood nor the bark is my food. I live wholly upon the insects, which form a lodgment in the diseased covering; and, when the sound tells me that my prey is near, I labour to get at it, and by consuming it prevent further depredations.

"Thus it is that I discover for you your enemies, who, hidden and unsuspected, destroy your timber in secresy; nor can you have the smallest suspicion of their being concealed.

"The hole which I make through the bark to get at the pernicious vermin will be seen by you when passing near the tree. Take it as a signal to inform you that your timber has stood too long. It is past its prime; millions of little insects, engendered by disease, are preying on its vitals, and ere long it must fall a useless log. Cut down the rest in time, and spare the inoffensive woodpecker.

"For, if there be in your breast a spark of that feeling which, they say, man possesses, surely you cannot condemn a poor afflicted sufferer without inquiry into the justice or injustice of the accusation which is preferred against him."

The largest sized woodpecker which we generally met with was bigger than a thrush, of a cinnamon colour, speckled with dark brown and yellow; near the rump it is entirely yellow. The head is crested, having a fine crown of small feathers: when erected, the under ones were crimson. The tail is long and black, the bill straight, the legs and iris

of the eyes of a sea-green colour, under which, on each side, are two beautiful spots of crimson.

The knife-grinder, or rhinoceros beetle, was an insect which surprised me perhaps more than any other in this country. A thousand knife-grinders at work at the same moment could not equal their noise. I first heard them on this island, and I never shall forget my astonishment. They are generally upwards of two inches in length, and move about in flocks. They exactly resemble a European beetle, only they are larger and have an enormous horn projecting from the end of the nose. With this and an under one they contrive to seize the young branch of a tree, and, by giving their bodies an impetus with their wings, they soon get themselves into a circular motion, which they continue with rapidity until the wood is completely sawed through by means of their horns. During this operation, the noise they make is exactly that of a knife-grinder holding steel against

the stone of his wheel. They were so high among the branches of the trees that I never could take one, or ascertain what they worked for.

We generally returned to Fort St. Andrews covered with mud, but always in time to wash and dress ourselves for the mess-dinner; and when we did not spend our morning in the woods or savannah, which surrounded our fort, Yates would go to rat-hunting in the trenches, where abundance of these animals bury themselves in holes. One of his quick little terriers, of which he kept twenty, would commence almost immediately scraping and yelping, when his master with a piece of stick would soon remove the clay which covered the hole, until he succeeded in forcing his hand into it, and I have frequently seen him pull out of one nest two and sometimes three large water-rats. These he would introduce between the frills of his shirt, which he kept closed with his left hand to prevent their escaping. After collecting a dozen of

these disagreeable animals, which were to be seen running round and round his naked body, under his shirt, with their sharp claws sticking into his skin, and one of them, perhaps, peeping up from behind the collar of his shirt close under his ear, he would walk leisurely into the middle of the parade ground, where, standing surrounded by his dogs, he contrived to take out one rat after another, and, throwing them on the ground, would occasion a general hunt and scramble among the dogs to the amusement of us all. Such was his nature for handling animals, that I believe there was none, though ever so venomous, that he would not seize; nor did I ever see him receive an injury from any.

CHAPTER X.

Fort St. Andrews—The Savannah—New Amsterdam—Boundaries of Berbice—Soil—Climate—Seasons—Diseases—Garrison—Lieutenant Dudgeon—Vice of Drunkenness—Captain Campbell—The Berbice River—Fort Myers—Aspect of the Country—Canje River—Trade of Berbice—Captain Yates and the Rattlesnake—Invasion of Red Ants—Death of a Pet Deer.

Fort St. Andrews, like Fort William Frederick, in the Demerara river, is a small low fortification, consisting of four bastions, surrounded by a ditch or fossé, and mounted with eighteen twelve-pounders. It is nearly four miles from the entrance of the river, and two miles from the settlement of New Amsterdam.

In the rear of this fort is an extensive savannah, or swamp, over which the trade-wind constantly blows, conveying with it, at particular seasons, a collection of putrid and

unwholesome vapours, which are exhaled by the heat of the sun, and produce too frequently many dangerous disorders among the garrison, which consisted at this time of four companies of the Royals, and four companies of the 4th West India regiment.

The town of New Amsterdam is two miles above the fort, from which it is separated by the Canje river or creek, which empties itself into the Berbice.

As I have before stated, the northerly boundary of this colony is the sea. The southerly, as in the rest of our settlements in Guiana, is undetermined; which, however, at this period is immaterial, as the Europeans in this country seem to be afraid of leaving the sea-shore, apparently anxious not to expose themselves to the fury of the native Indians, or to the vengeance of their black slaves, and therefore keeping within sight of their shipping. Their general opinion is, that the land proper for cultivation does not extend more than one hundred miles from the sea.

The westerly limit is marked by the Abary creek, already described, which separates this colony from Demerara. The easterly boundary extends to the western bank of the Corantine river. The Surinam government claimed, on the part of Holland, the sea-coast as formerly, to Devil's creek, half-way between the Corantine and Berbice rivers. An investigation has since taken place, and decided in favour of the Berbice government.

The distance of the sea-coast now within this colony from the Abary creek to the Corantine river is about eighty miles.

The soil throughout these colonies differs materially in quality and nature, some parts of it being suitable for the cultivation of sugar, others for coffee, and the sea-coast is generally preferred for the growth of cotton, and considered as good land for this production as any in the world.

Berbice lies in latitude 6° 25′ North. The heat is not excessive, though so near the line, as the sea-breeze arises at ten o'clock in the

morning, and generally refreshes the atmosphere till four in the afternoon, at which time it ceases, and the heat becomes oppressive: at sunset it again freshens up, and continues during the night, which sets in as soon as the sun is down, for in this climate they have no twilight.

The thermometer, which I kept in a shady part of my room, was generally from 76° to 77° in the morning, and from 82° to 84° at noon.

The seasons are divided into two rainy and two dry ones. The short rainy season commences about the end of November, and continues until the middle of February, when the short dry season follows. This is by far the most pleasant and healthy time of the year, but it is of short duration, as in the month of May heavy falls of rain succeed till August, when the long dry season sets in and lasts till November. From the month of June to that of September, this climate is very unfavourable to health; the other parts of the year are tolerably good.

The yellow fever, which has so fatally raged in the islands, has very rarely made its appearance in this part of the South American continent.

The garrison in Fort St. Andrews at present consists of nearly two hundred and fifty men, composed of detachments of the Royals, and the 4th West India Regiment have nearly an equal number, who are generally healthy — the greatest number of men being lost by their own intemperance, from indulging too freely in that vile beverage, rum, which is here to be had so reasonable that there is no possibility of keeping them from drinking it.

One of the officers whom I found here, Lieutenant Dudgeon, 4th West India Regiment, used to turn out for morning parade as drunk as when he tumbled into a soldier's hammock in which he slept at night. At the end of six months he killed himself by drinking rum; and I have often heard him, when he could say nothing else, stammer out: "Drunkenness is a bewitch-

ing devil, a pleasant poison, and a sweet sin."

This unfortunate man served only in this garrison to be held up as an example to the other individuals who then composed it, for any duty he was ever able to perform; and so disgusting was he in his intoxication, that we all, with one inclination, cut him dead.

About six months after I left Demerara, we heard of the death of Captain Campbell, Royal Regiment, caused by the same kind of indulgence. His trip to Scotland had, in some measure, restored a constitution broken by drinking; but, on landing in Demerara, he again took to his precious rum, which he swallowed in such abundance that he only survived six months after his return. It was he who came out at the same time with us a passenger in the Ariadne merchant ship from Greenock.

The prevailing diseases in this country are flux, dysentery, cholic, fevers, and liver com-

plaints. They seldom prove fatal if attended to in the commencement.

As I before mentioned, the River Berbice is divided near its mouth into two channels by a small island, which lies in the middle of it, and is three miles in length. The passage for ships is by the windward channel, which Fort St. Andrews commands; and a small redoubt on the west bank of the river, called York Redoubt, protects the leeward channel.

On the extreme point of the east bank, at the entrance of the river, is another small battery, consisting of two guns, which commands a very extensive sea-view, and is called Fort Myers, named after the late commander-in-chief of the Leeward and Caribbee Islands. Here signals are made to Fort St. Andrews on the approach of vessels to the mouth of the river; and, when they prove of consequence, they are communicated to Demerara by means of signal-posts, erected, as I have before stated, on the planters' houses, at proper distances from each other.

A view which I took from the topmast-head of a vessel lying at anchor at the very mouth of the river showed me on the bank to my left hand, looking up, first, Fort Myers; second, New Battery; third, Fort St. Andrews; each of them distinguished by the British colours flying: and above this last fort stands the settlement of New Amsterdam, in which is the Government-house. All the country is low and swampy; and behind these three forts extends, for a considerable distance, an unwholesome swampy savannah, full of snakes and reptiles. The Canje river, which comes down from the interior of the country, empties itself into the Berbice between Fort St. Andrews and New Amsterdam. In the distance nothing is to be seen but bush, as it is termed in this country, or what would be called in England forest.

In the centre of the river is Crab Island, rather thickly wooded and inhabited only by parrots; while the opposite bank of the river is covered with thick wood, with the flag-staff

pointing out the military post of York Redoubt; and a little above it is seen a house, which is the ferry for crossing on the way to Demerara. I doubt whether any more suitable point of view could be chosen for showing the extraordinary flatness of this part of the South American continent.

As I have just mentioned, a little above Fort St: Andrews, the Canje river runs into the Berbice. This stream takes its source an immense distance back in the country, and runs in a winding direction between the Corantine and Berbice: its banks are cultivated only at a distance of twelve miles from its entrance. It is not known precisely where this stream takes its rise: from the accounts of some Indians it is supposed to come from a large lake. The source of the Berbice river has likewise never yet been discovered, which appears extraordinary, considering the enterprizing spirit of my countrymen.

The Berbice river is navigable for vessels drawing fourteen or fifteen feet water, and

here they may ride perfectly safe at all times of the year, as no hurricanes have ever been experienced in these colonies, and consequently they are well situated for commerce.

The trade of this colony consists of cotton, coffee, and sugar. The first two of these articles are in the greatest proportion, as most of the river estates produce coffee; those on the sea-coast cotton; while the sugar estates are but few, though there is a great quantity of uncultivated land well suited to this species of produce.

About this time a most extraordinary circumstance took place, which I will now relate, as affording evidence of that fearless disposition in regard to animals of all kinds which is inherent in some men to a most wonderful degree, while others even tremble at the sight of a frog. One morning early, Captain Yates and myself started on a shooting expedition into the savannah behind the fort, which contained abundance of reptiles, birds, and animals, of various species, some in water,

others on dry land. We had proceeded some distance up to the middle in water, and had just gained a dry spot covered with long grass, when a large rattlesnake raised his head at me as I approached, and, throwing his tail high in air, with a rattling noise, defied me to advance. I immediately cocked my gun, and was preparing to shoot this dangerous reptile through the head, which was not more than four or five feet distant from me. It had just raised itself to an erect position, ready to spring at me, when Yates, brushing past, advanced rapidly on it, and, immediately grasping it, to my horror and astonishment, with all the strength of his hand and arm, close to the head, held it from him until it expired, the poor animal twisting its scaly body round his arm in the agonies of death. This was a feat which but few men even among the savage Africans or the South American Indians would attempt.

I dragged the snake home with me, skinned it, and properly dried and preserved it for

years afterwards, with many other curiosities collected in these colonies; but, while it hung from my window, stretched out to dry, I had not observed that its tail touched the ground. I went to bed as usual, and soon fell into my first sleep. About twelve o'clock I awoke in tortures, and, rubbing my hand over my body, I found it covered with something rough, which caused the pains I was enduring. Up I jumped, and, making for the door, sung out in a man-of-war style for my servant, who, after some time, made his appearance with a light in his hand. On examining myself, I found my whole body covered with small red ants, which were sticking to me like leeches from my feet upward; and it took about half an hour before I could entirely rid myself of these venomous and troublesome insects: but, when we attempted to enter my room again, what a sight was there! The whole floor and some parts of the walls of my apartment were a mass of red ants. It puzzled me to devise means of expelling

the invaders; every thing eatable in the room, my clothes, and all my property of every kind, were in their possession; myself being left with only one shirt on my back. I immediately ordered kettles of water to be boiled; and, all the servants in the barracks volunteering their assistance, we soon put millions to death, and at length completely routed the remainder. On examining how they had stormed my room, I found the skin of the rattlesnake covered with dense columns of those destructive insects marching upwards, and, immediately unhooking it from a nail, I let this conductor to my room drop to the earth before I again retired to my bed. The next morning, on taking down a tin canister, which held my tea and sugar for breakfast, I found it emptied of every particle of sugar, which they had devoured, after getting through the key-hole, though it was drawn up to the roof of my room for security against the cockroaches. I next discovered that a little pet deer, which I had purchased from

a Negro, who had taken it alive in the savannah, was extremely ill. I could not discover the cause of its malady, until, placing it on its legs, I observed that it would not let one foot touch the ground, and, on examining it, I found, to my grief, that the red ants had absolutely eaten a hole into the bone. The poor little animal pined all that day and died in the evening. This insect is the most destructive and annoying in the country.

CHAPTER XI.

Trade of Berbice under the Dutch Government—Timber the only natural Production of the Colony—Courts of Justice—History of the Colony—Taken by a squadron of French Privateers—Ransomed by Dutch Merchants—They form an Association for bringing the Lands into Cultivation—Consequent prosperity of the Colony—The Directors place it under the Protection of the States-General—Obtain Authority to levy Taxes—Nature of those Taxes—Insurrection of the Negro Slaves—Mutiny of a Detachment of the Troops—Their March through the Woods—They fall in with the Rebel Negroes, who put almost all of them to Death—Fate of the Survivors—Three of them executed—Cruel Punishment inflicted on the Rebel Negroes—Deficiency of Revenue on account of this Rebellion—The Taxes doubled in consequence—Mode of paying Taxes and Salaries.

UNDER the Dutch government in Berbice, no custom-house existed. The ships that traded to this colony came from Amsterdam, and returned thither with their cargoes, paying the custom-house duties before they departed from home: but, since the colony has

been in possession of the English, a regular custom-house has been established.

Previously to the year 1795, no foreign vessels were allowed to trade to the colonies, all necessary supplies coming direct from Holland, and all the produce being, of course, sent thither in return. As, however, lumber, salt fish, and some other necessaries, could not be procured in sufficient quantities from the Dutch republic, American traders were occasionally allowed to dispose of their cargoes in Berbice; but they received cash or bills in payment, the exportation of goods by foreigners being, as I before mentioned, prohibited.

At the above period, the trade with Holland being entirely interrupted, the States-General granted permission for neutrals to trade with the colony, and to take away produce in payment for the cargoes which they disposed of. The commodities purchased by the inhabitants from these neutrals were provisions, plantation stores, and materials

for building. It must be observed, that no more produce than what actually paid for the articles imported was allowed to be exported to neutral countries.

The local situation of the colony prevents illegal trade, as every vessel entering the river must pass under the guns of the different forts. No frigate can pass over the bar of this river, as there is not water enough to admit ships of war of a larger size than sloops. This shallowness of the river is a fortunate circumstance, as the colony can never be attacked but by vessels of very small force. It is so safe for shipping, that no vessel lying in it has ever been known to receive injury from violent winds.

The only natural production of these colonies is timber, of which there is great abundance: in the interior of the country, on the high land, the mill timber and other hard woods abound. There are no manufactories in the colony, excepting such as are necessary for the building of houses and

boats, both of which are constructed entirely of wood.

In this colony there are two courts of justice, charged with the civil administration. The first is the court of police and criminal justice: it regulates the police, provides for the maintenance of good order in the colony, and has authority to make laws for this purpose. All the fiscal's actions are tried before it.

The governor is the president of this court, and all matters are decided in it by a plurality of votes: it is composed of six members besides the president. If, in the absence of one member, the votes are equal on both sides of the question, the governor is allowed to have the weight of two on the side upon which he determines. On a vacancy in the court, two gentlemen are nominated by the counsellors, and their names are presented to the governor, who elects one of the two according to his pleasure.

The second court is that of civil justice. It decides all law-suits for the recovery of

debts and disputes about property. In some cases suitors are allowed to appeal from its decision to the chief court of criminal justice, when the litigated object exceeds in value six hundred guilders.

The principal civil officers are the fiscal, the secretary, the receiver-general, and the bookkeeper of the salaries. The principal part of the income of the fiscal is derived from the penalties incurred by individuals, and allotted to him by law. That of the secretary arises from the fees paid on all transactions and deeds passed at his office. The receiver has two and a half per cent. on the amount paid into his office as taxes, besides a salary.

In the war of the succession, which ended in the peace of Utrecht, signed in 1713, the colony of Berbice was the private property of a family in the province of Zealand, named Van de Peire. On the 8th of November, 1712, it was attacked by the Baron de Morrans, who commanded some vessels belonging

to a squadron of French privateers, under the orders of Jacques Cosard *. This colony was afterwards ransomed for the sum of 300,000 guilders, 118,024 of which was paid in produce, and, for the remaining balance of 281,976 guilders, six bills were given upon the proprietors in Zealand, and drawn in favour of Baron de Morrans. The bills were

* This squadron, which entered the River Surinam on the 10th October, 1712, consisted of six sail of ships of war, accompanied by a number of small vessels, in which were embarked three thousand men. The largest ship was Le Neptune of 74 guns, on board of which Cosard hoisted his flag as Admiral of the fleet. The other vessels under his command were: Le Téméraire, 60 guns; La Rubis, 56; La Vestale, 48; La Parfaite, 48; and La Meduse, 36. On the 20th of October the French again summoned the colony to submit and pay contribution; and, in case of refusal, the piratical admiral threatened fire and destruction to the whole settlement. The Dutch, aware that unless they should comply their ruin would be inevitable, solicited a truce of three days to deliberate; which being granted, they, at last, signified their acquiescence in the commodore's demands, and paid a large sum in sugar and negro slaves, having but little gold or silver at the time in the colony. On the 6th December, the commodore, with the whole fleet, weighed anchor and left the colony. From these dates it appears that, after entering the river Surinam, he sent a detachment of his squadron under Baron Morrans to Berbice, where he succeeded in bringing that colony also to terms.

not paid, and the colony, in consequence, was given up to the owners of the French privateers by an act of the 13th September, 1713; though the French commissioners appointed to conclude the peace strongly insisted that the bills should be paid, as it appears from the resolutions of Holland on the 20th June, of the same year.

After the peace, the colony remained the property of the association who fitted out the above privateers; and it was not until the 22d of October, 1714, that it was again ransomed by the following gentlemen: Nicola Van Hoom, Hendricke Van Hoom, Amald Dix, and Peitro Shurman, all merchants of Amsterdam; the said merchants having paid the amount of the protested bills.

Whilst in possession of the owners of the French privateers, the colony was the property of individuals of the French nation, but not of the nation itself; neither did the French government take any measures towards obtaining the sovereignty of the colony any

more than had been done by the Dutch government at the period when it was the private property of the family of Van de Peire.

The colony being thus purchased from persons residing in France, and paid for by private individuals in Holland, the latter found it requisite to raise a sum of money for the purpose of bringing the lands into a greater degree of cultivation. This was effected, in 1720, by an association which consisted of one thousand six hundred subscribers. The colony then became the private property of the members of this association, who were represented by a certain number of directors, elected by themselves.

This measure having been attended with the beneficial effects that were expected from it, and the colony increasing in prosperity, the directors found it to their interest to open the navigation to it for the whole Dutch republic, and granted, on certain conditions, lots of land for cultivation to such

persons as had an inclination to settle in the colony.

The colony soon increased much in value, and the number of plantations augmented rapidly. The proprietors then began to perceive that it was necessary to place the colony under the protection of the States General, and that the directors should be authorized to levy taxes for the purpose of a regular government. In consequence, they requested and obtained from their High Mightinesses, in the year 1732, a charter, for an unlimited time, by which the directors were authorized to make such regulations, in the name of the sovereignty, as they might occasionally find requisite for the good of the colony.

The taxes were raised by the directors, in their capacity of representatives of the sovereignty, for the support of the colonial government; and they were levied under the following heads: hoofgeld, waaggeld, and lastgeld.

Hoofgeld is a capitation of two guilders and ten stivers, paid annually for every individual free person, or slave, above ten years of age; between ten and three years of age, two heads counted for one; and under three years of age nothing was charged.

Waaggeld is a duty of two and a half per cent. raised on the value of the produce shipped from the colony; and the same charge on all articles sold by public auction.

Lastgeld is a duty of three guilders tonnage, per last, for all vessels navigating to and from this colony. The Dutch vessels were not exempt from this tax.

A general insurrection of the Negroes in this colony, which broke out in the year 1762, reduced it to the brink of ruin. Many of the inhabitants were butchered by the Blacks in the most inhuman manner, and all the plantations either burned or destroyed. As soon as this fatal event was known in Holland, a regiment of infantry and some men-of-war were sent out to quell the mutiny, which they

happily effected within a month after their arrival. The ringleader suffered death; the pardoned Negroes returned to their work and renewed their labours on the estates, which, by the great perseverance, industry, and activity of the planters, in a few years recovered from the losses they had sustained.

Besides the marine corps, commanded by Colonel de Salse, sent from Holland, some troops from the neighbouring colonies were dispatched in order to subdue this revolt. They soon succeeded in preventing the rebels from forming settlements; and, after many had been shot and others taken prisoners, the rest were forced to surrender, lest they should perish for want of subsistence.

It happened during this disturbance that one officer and seventy men, sent by the colony of Surinam, were posted on the banks of the Corantine river. This detachment had with it a party of Indians, who, though natural enemies to the Blacks, are on friendly terms with the Europeans. They had one

day beaten the rebels in a skirmish, having killed and wounded several of them, and retaken about the value of twenty pounds sterling in effects, of which the revolted Negroes had plundered the neighbouring estates. The officer, who commanded the detachment, whether warrantably or unwarrantably it is too late now to decide, distributed this booty wholly among the Indians, without permitting one of his soldiers to have the smallest share of the prize; which disgusted them so much that this act alone occasioned a mutiny in his ranks: and the soldiers, with one accord deserting their commanding officer, took their march from the Corantine river, on the left bank of which they were encamped, towards the River Oronoquo, thus turning their backs on Surinam, and going in the direction of the Spanish Main. But, how miserably were these poor deluded men disappointed in their desperate undertaking! They had not only to encounter the difficulty of making their way through a country covered

with an almost impervious wood, frequently intersected by deep and rapid streams, and abounding in noxious animals, snakes, and insects, but also the possibility of meeting with the rebels or Bush Negroes, who, on account of the cruelty exercised by their masters, had sought refuge in the bush, and taken up arms to defend themselves against their persecutors.

The first and second days of their march passed as marches generally do in this difficult country; but the third was destined to show them how absolutely in the dark we mortals are as to futurity. On this day they were met by an overwhelming force of Bush Negroes, who immediately surrounded them on all sides. In vain did the soldiers protest that they were come without any evil intention against them; swearing, in the most solemn manner, that they had also run away from their officers; and begging, for God's sake, that they would let them pass unmolested. The Negroes insisted that they should lay down their arms

at discretion, as they were suspected of being spies sent out to betray them. At length the deserters, conceiving it to be the only way in which they could save their lives, threw down their arms and surrendered themselves prisoners to their bitterest enemies. The Blacks immediately secured their muskets, and dressed them in one rank, when, picking out ten or twelve, for reasons which I shall hereafter mention, they condemned all the others to instant execution; and, as a butcher seizes a sheep that shelters itself among the flock, ties its legs, and, immediately drawing a knife across its throat, leaves the struggling animal to bleed to death, so were above fifty of these unfortunate men dragged forth, one by one, by their ruthless enemies, and put to death on the spot.

The twelve men, whose lives they spared, were intended to assist their sick and wounded, to repair their arms, and to make gunpowder, which these ignorant people concluded every white man was in the habit of preparing for

his own use: and they were rather astonished when they discovered their mistake.

It may well be supposed that the wretches saved by the Negroes must have led a most melancholy life amongst them. In consequence of the harsh treatment which they experienced, most of them died from misery and want, after they had been a very few months in their power.

When these black rebels surrendered themselves to the colonists, the few wretched Europeans who were still found alive among them were immediately loaded with chains; and, confessing that they belonged to a regiment in the garrison of Surinam, they were tried, forthwith sent thither from Berbice, and executed in the town of Parimaribo; one being hanged and two broken alive on the rack.

One of these two unfortunate wretches was a Frenchman, named Renauld, who seemed to have imbibed the sentiments of the Negroes during his residence among them. With a truly heroic spirit, he comforted his comrade,

who was a German; and, when tied down by his side, just ready to receive the fatal blow, he exhorted him to preserve his courage, adding that the journey of life would soon be over. At this very moment the executioner was breaking his bones with an iron bar.

Many of the ringleaders among the Negroes were roasted alive in this colony by half dozens, being first chained to a stake in the midst of surrounding flames, and expired without uttering a sigh or a groan. The miserable fate of so many poor wretches excited great commiseration; and it is now quite impossible to reflect on punishments so shocking to humanity without the strongest feelings of indignation against the inflicters of them; more particularly when we consider that these unfortunate individuals were driven to insurrection by the tyranny and oppression of their masters alone.

The total cessation of all labour and the cultivation of the land during this mutiny having caused a great diminution of the revenue,

the directors in the intermediate time found themselves destitute of the necessary supplies from the above-mentioned taxes to defray the expences of government. In order to avoid contracting debts, which they had no means of repaying, and, in the supposition that it was but just that the inhabitants should assist them with the necessary support for the government of their country, from which they reaped all the benefits, they determined upon doubling the taxes.

This measure, however, was instantly opposed by the colonists, who represented that the directors had no right to impose taxes in addition to those which the States General had authorised the board to raise.

This difference was, however, soon afterwards amicably arranged between the inhabitants and the directors, through the interference of the sovereignty, and the colonists agreed to pay annually double the original taxes, with the addition of 1250 guilders per annum, under the denomination of plantation

money, to be raised by a capitation-tax on the slaves belonging to the plantations; but on the special condition that, whenever it appeared that the double taxes had exceeded the sum of 173,000 guilders in the year, the additional charge should gradually be reduced every year to the original amount.

Under the Dutch government, all the taxes were paid in bills to the receiver-general, who remitted them to the board of directors. This board supplied the government with necessaries, and paid the salaries of the people in its employ; and to this purpose alone the revenue was appropriated.

The salaries were paid in assignats upon the directors, drawn by those to whom due, and with the additional signatures of the governor and the bookkeeper of the salaries. These assignats are still in circulation, and keep their full value.

It is a fortunate circumstance for the colony that the value of these assignats has been confirmed by its capitulation to

England, as the colonists would be exceedingly at a loss but for this circulating medium.

Since the surrender of Berbice to the English the taxes are paid, as before, to the receiver-general, but not in bills: he now receives the taxes in cash, or produce, or colonial assignments; and they are appropriated to the same purpose as heretofore, namely to defray the expences of government.

The bookkeeper of these salaries gives in a monthly return of the amount due; and receives an order for this amount from his excellency, upon the receiver-general. All necessaries, that is, provisions for the rations of the people in government employ, the materials for building and repairing the different works, and other articles, which were formerly sent out by the board of directors from Holland, are now paid for and purchased in the colony by the receiver-general, upon an order from the governor.

The expences of the Government-house, at

this period, amount to £2,500 sterling per annum; and £500 per annum is paid to the officers of the garrison, in addition to their British pay, which I found, during my services in these colonies, exactly doubled my pay and allowances.

Besides the taxes above-mentioned, a colonial rent of one stiver per acre is imposed on the granted land, under the name of church money; and there is another small duty on liquor imported.

The colony still remains under the Batavian laws; and the estates belonging to the association are managed by agents of their own appointment, who reside upon them.

CHAPTER XII.

Arrival of a Slave Ship at Berbice—Review of the Life of the African Negro, in freedom and enslaved—Appearance of the Slaves—The Captain's Seraglio—Reflections on Slavery—Reasons why the cruelty of the System had not before struck the Author—The state of Slaves founded on a principle of Humanity—Slaves among the Romans—Origin of the African Slave-trade—Causes of Slavery—Captives taken in Battle—The Slave-trade has extinguished Cannibalism in Africa—Slavery existing in Africa—The Injustice of the Slave-trade more in name than reality—Benefits derived by Africans from the Traffic—Punishment of the Negro for striking a White—History of Sampson, a Runaway Black—Black Louis—Cruelty of the Dutch to their Slaves.

SHORTLY after my arrival in Berbice, a fine schooner, under American colours, came up the river, direct from the Coast of Africa, with a cargo of slaves. I was among the first to board her from the garrison, as soon as the nature of her cargo was made known among us; and never was I so horror-struck in my life as when, on gaining the deck of

the vessel, I found myself surrounded by a crowd of ignorant and miserable beings, many of whom were, in all probability, kidnapped in their own country, shipped on board a strange vessel, and brought to a foreign clime, to be sold and worked like cattle by people of different colour, manners, ideas, and constitution. It actually made me sick at heart to imagine for a moment that an Englishman could degrade himself so much as to traffic in human flesh. This vessel was the last permitted to enter an English port with a similar cargo; the act for the abolition of slavery being put in force in this year (1806).

The whole party of Blacks were such a set of scarcely animated automata, such a resurrection of skin and bone, as forcibly to remind me of the last trumpet, they all looked so like corpses just arisen from the grave: "And he said unto me, Son of Man, can these bones live? and I answered, O! Lord God, thou knowest."—*Ezekiel*, xxxvii, ver. 3.

When I considered the state of these unfortunate beings, and looked upon their misery, I could not help moralizing upon the vicissitudes to which man is exposed; and, following him through the chequered scenes of his existence, I deeply impressed upon my own mind the conviction of our insignificance on the face of this earth.

I began with considering him a helpless infant, depending on his mother's breast for support to cherish that life which God had given him; to her this object of affection is dearer than the whole world put together, for even her own existence is not more precious to her than that of her child. The wandering savage of Africa has the same love for her offspring as the more enlightened mother of Europe, and, in many instances, the scale of natural affection is even in favour of the Black; as no African mother ever trusts her tender offspring to the uncertain kindness of another, during the days of infancy and helplessness. She feels that to her alone belongs

the charge of cherishing that being which she herself has been the means of bringing into the world, and Nature points out to her the parent's duty: but fashion has operated too strongly to drive natural affection from the breast of European mothers, and to substitute the hired tenderness of a stranger in its place.

The African mother watches her offspring in his growth until he can sport with children of his own years. As he advances in life he feels more and more the native passions of his soul stir within him, and he tries to rival all the youths of his own tribe. If Nature has made him strong and active, which is the case with nineteen out of twenty among these savages, he surpasses many of his companions in their wild sports, and soon prides himself on his superiority.

Having now reached the age of manhood, he is called upon to enter the ranks of his tribe, to take part in battles and in conquests. He becomes esteemed for his courage

and prowess in the field, and, perhaps, is chosen to lead his countrymen as their chief. Again he meets the enemies of his race; a struggle ensues; and he, poor wretch, receiving a desperate wound, is overcome by numbers, and falls a prisoner under their blows.

What a change has now taken place in his existence! Confined in a loathsome cell, where he is allowed only sufficient provision to keep body and soul together, until some fellow creature arrives in the wilderness in which he is detained a prisoner, and purchases him for the value of a few pence; he is then marched, by his new master, towards the sea-coast, and carried on board ship, where he is stowed, with hundreds more, in the hold, there to live or die as chance directs. If he survives the horrors of the voyage, he is landed in a distant country, where this pride of the little world in which he was known, and from which he has been so cruelly torn, is doomed to pass the remainder of his days, "a bondsman, in the land of strangers." Here every thing is new and

strange to him, and from this time he is thought of and treated only as a slave.

It is frequently the lot of this life for youth to be cut off, just when every expectation is about to be realized, as well as when the perfection is acquired, which it has taken years of application and study to attain; but, in this case, the recollections and regrets of the survivors are gradually soothed and softened by time, even though it cannot wholly obliterate our feelings. Not so with this unfortunate being. He is still doomed to live, with the remembrance of what he has been more strongly and more bitterly impressed upon his recollection by the perception of what he is; and he is now new-born, a full-grown child of civilized society.

Naked these poor wretches stood before me, dulness and ignorance depicted on their countenances; and, even though their skins were black, still a lustreless whiteness was perceptible through them, which bespoke the unhealthiness of their bodies.

Upwards of two hundred and fifty were crowded on the deck: many of them smiled at me as I passed, and jabbered like monkeys with unpleasant voices and in unintelligible language. The odour proceeding from their bodies was most unpleasant.

On the lower deck were some of these beings lying lazily stretched out in all directions, enjoying themselves in their native indolence. I observed four or five black holes, which, the captain of this vessel informed me, were absolutely necessary for confining violent and bad-tempered men; and, in one of these, he showed me a stout Negro, who had attempted to put an end to his life by jumping overboard.

On reaching the cabin, which belonged to the captain and mate, in the stern of this vessel, I found five or six young girls, as naked as they were born, who formed the seraglio of these two sultans, and were kept fat and in good condition. Some of them were ugly, others by no means ill-looking.

and some were really beautiful in their shapes and forms; but all of them appeared disgusting to me as partaking largely of the manners of our own prostitutes. I remained on board until I saw the dinner delivered out to these unfortunate creatures, and this consisted only of a small portion to each of some ground Indian corn, boiled in sea-water and mixed up with common fish-oil. I now landed, determined to attend the sale the next morning.

This night, whilst reclining on my tent-bed and tormented by the noise of a thousand mosquitoes, my thoughts were engrossed by those miserable slaves whom I had beheld in the morning; and it struck me as singular, that, since my arrival in this country, where I was living among slaves, the cruelty of this system had never before occurred to my mind. I considered well, and found these to be the reasons:—

Firstly, it is the interest of white men to treat their slaves well.

Secondly, all the slaves whom I have seen are now comfortably established in this country, having each his own hut with a portion of ground for the cultivation of vegetables.

Thirdly, so valuable are the Negroes now become, and consequently high in price, that of course no planter will work them beyond their strength, and will only punish those who merit chastisement by negligence, drunkenness, or some other fault. The cruel system followed by the Dutch is now entirely done away with.

Fourthly, I never beheld a more happy race of beings, enjoying comforts far beyond those which fall to the lot of the poor labourer in Europe, who has not only to supply himself, but, too frequently, a wife and family, with food and clothing. Here the slave is fed and protected by his master; no distress, no poverty, no starvation, is to be seen among them; here are no law-suits to consign them to a prison, nor is there any thing but the term SLAVE which sounds disagreeable.

I am well aware that different individuals look upon slavery in different points of view, and I believe that in England the numbers who think of it with indignation, horror, and disgust, are, beyond comparison, the greater number of the well-thinking class: with them I sincerely hope that it will in due time be abolished, but it requires years to bring about a change so great, and a century to complete the work as it should be done.

Since this period I have read much, and find that the very highest authorities agree in stating, that slavery had its origin in a principle of humanity, to avoid the shedding of blood. Justinian says, that slaves, *servi*, are so called, because conquerors, instead of putting their prisoners to death, were accustomed to sell them, and by this means saved their lives: "Servi autem ex eo appellati sunt, quod imperatores captivos vendere ac per hoc servare nec occidere solent."

The Romans, among their early customs, practised that of destroying their prisoners,

to avoid the further inconvenience of providing for them, or to prevent the possibility of their again becoming their opponents. Their first step to civilization was the relinquishment of this inhuman practice, and the milder method of selling captives for servants was adopted.

The traffic in Negro slaves between Europe and Africa was first commenced by the Portuguese, and afterwards adopted by England, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in 1588. The slaves now sent from Africa to the Brazils and other Portuguese settlements (for none have been imported into our colonies since the year 1806) consist, according to that persevering traveller, Mungo Park, of the following classes:

1st. Prisoners taken in battle.

2d. Persons condemned to slavery for some crime.

3d. Voluntary slaves.

4th. Persons born in bondage.

Authority still exists to prove that in former

times prisoners taken in battle were constantly sacrificed in cold blood, with the most revolting cruelties; and, frequently, the propensity of the cannibal gave an additional horror to the scene.

A short time after the commencement of this trade, the inhabitants of the coast found it more profitable to preserve their prisoners than to sacrifice them to their revenge; and, in consequence of this selfish feeling, millions have been spared who would otherwise have been immolated on the altar of blood.

My celebrated countryman, Bruce, observes, in his interesting travels, that "the merchandise of slaves has contributed much to abolish two savage African customs, the eating of captives, and sacrificing them to idols, once universal in that whole continent."

Without considering the vile motives which induced Europeans to commence this traffic, I will ask: Does not Africa owe them something for saving generations of her children?

This benefit was soon extended from the

coast to the interior, spreading a comparative enlightenment among these savages over the whole continent; and, at the present moment, I believe it would be difficult to prove that one tribe of cannibals exists throughout the country.

I will now advert to the other causes of slavery in Africa, and devote a few remarks to them, in order to demonstrate to the reader the justice or cruelty of these customs.

The second of the causes of slavery which I have enumerated is punishment for offences against society. This is an act made by the people themselves of the countries where the practice prevails, by which any man committing a crime becomes subject to a certain period of slavery, according to the magnitude of the offence. This custom is founded upon principles of justice as well as humanity.

The third cause, voluntary slavery, arises from a variety of circumstances, the principal of them being poverty and hunger, when man, labouring under these hardships to avoid the

wretchedness of the one and the pressing calls of the other, will sell his liberty rather than perish; and the poor afflicted Negro, when fainting for want of food, thinks likes Esau: "Behold! I am at the point to die, and what profit shall this birthright do to me?"

The fourth cause it is, perhaps, less easy to vindicate than any of the foregoing, as it entails upon an unoffending being the punishment awarded for the crimes or follies of another, and deprives him at once of that birthright to which all the human race are equally entitled. Persons born in slavery are children of natives, who have become slaves from one or other of the above-mentioned causes.

Not only has a Negro in Africa the power to devote himself and his heirs to perpetual bondage, but an offence committed against the state in which he lives may also condemn him and his race to an heritage of slavery. From these causes, and especially the latter, the great proportion of the inhabitants of Africa are at this moment in a state of servi-

tude, without the hope of redemption; and I shall quote the words of Park in proof of this assertion: "The slaves in Africa, I suppose, are nearly in the proportion of three to one to the free men. They claim no reward for their services, except food and clothing, and are treated with kindness or severity according to the good or bad disposition of their masters; and, in this condition of life, a great body of the Negro inhabitants of Africa have continued from the earliest period of their history, with this aggravation — that their children are born to no other inheritance."

From these observations, supported by the above authorities, it will appear that the injustice of the slave-trade exists more in name than in reality; that, in fact, when Europeans take inhabitants of Africa from their native soil, they do not add to the number of slaves already in the world, but merely transplant them from a land of ignorance and superstition to one of civilization and improvement.

The intercourse between Africa and Europe

was first stimulated by cupidity. That Africa has derived benefit from this intercourse cannot be doubted. The inactive character of the Blacks would never have led them to improvement in either their laws or customs, and centuries would have elapsed without producing any apparent change or advancement. "Their rude ignorance," says Gibbon, "has never invented effectual weapons of defence or destruction; they appear incapable of forming any extensive plan of government or conquest; and the obvious inferiority of their mental faculties has been discovered and abused by the nations of the temperate zone." They are, therefore, indebted to their intercourse with Europe for much of the civilization which they have attained.

We are still frequently shocked by reading reports of the barbarities of the African savage; and yet the modern historian has a much brighter picture to delineate than that drawn by Speed, the great geographer of the

sixteenth century, who, speaking of the natives of some parts of Africa, says: "They have shambles of man's flesh as we have for meats; they kill their own children in the birth, to avoid the trouble of rearing them; and preserve their nation with stolen brats from the neighbouring countries."

I will now, before I conclude these observations, give a slight sketch of the comparative comfort enjoyed by the domestic slave in the West Indies and his brother of the woods. The wild savage is the child of passion, unaided by a single ray of religion or morality to direct his course; in consequence of which his existence is stained with every crime that can debase human nature to a level with the brute creation. But who can say that the Negro slaves in our colonies are such? Are they not, in comparison with their still savage brethren, enlightened beings? Is not the West India. Negro, therefore, greatly indebted to his master's kindness for making him what he is?—for having raised him from

the lowest state of debasement in which he was born, and placed him in the scale of civilized society? How can he sufficiently repay him? He is possessed of nothing—the only return in his power is his servitude. "As the ore gives forth the metal as a reward to man for cleansing it of its dross, so the savage, a rude mass of ignorance and vice, mixed with principles and capabilities of improvement, would live and die in debasement, if the hand of civilization did not step in and cleanse it of its impurities."

The man only who has seen the wild African roaming in his native woods, and contrasted him with the well-fed, comfortable-looking slave of the West Indies, can judge of their comparative happiness. The former, in my opinion, would be glad to change his state of boasted freedom, disease, and starvation, to become the servus, or slave, of sinners and the commiseration of saints.

I shall conclude these remarks by stating that they were begun in 1806 and finished in

1832. I have borrowed some few observations from a well written survey of the West Coast of Africa in 1825 and 1826, published in the United Service Journal; and, however right or wrong we may be upon this subject, there can be no doubt that the misery of slavery has produced the blessing of enlightenment among these unfortunate creatures, and that it has been the means of furnishing another proof of the truth of the old saying: "Evil is sometimes productive of good."

We shall now soon behold the effects of freedom upon these unfortunate beings; and I sincerely hope that these effects will answer the expectations of us all.

About the period that my thoughts were thus directed to the subject of slavery, I heard of a punishment which was to be inflicted on a Negro, for striking a white man; and, being curious upon these matters, I followed a subaltern's guard, which was sent to New Amsterdam, to be present on this occasion. In the rear of the Government-house a small plat-

form was raised, and, the guard being drawn up near it, a serjeant, with two file of men, was sent, by order of the fiscal, to conduct the prisoner from the gaol. The poor wretch mounted the platform, where stood the fiscal, near a wooden block, by the side of which was the executioner; and, when the prisoner, a stout, handsome, well-made young man, came up to him, I could not help remarking the difference between the Black and this limb of the law, a pale-faced, emaciated, short-armed, bandy-legged, sickly-looking being, in the Windsor uniform; that is, a blue coat with red collar and a cockade in his hat. One kick from this young gladiator would have sufficed to send his soul to the infernal regions.

About a thousand black people, as in Europe among the whites at these public shows, most of them women, were collected round the platform, when the executer of the law stepped forward and declared that this slave had been convicted, before the

Court of Police and Criminal Justice, of the abominable, rebellious, and horrid crime of striking a white man, for which he was sentenced to have his right hand, with which he struck the blow, severed from his body; and, turning round to the young prisoner, he ordered him to lay his hand upon the block. No sooner was this done than, with one stroke, the hand fell to the ground. He then walked from the platform, his arm streaming like a fountain with blood, and a surgeon, standing at the foot of the steps, bound it up, and conducted him to the hospital. Whilst this operation was going on I walked up to him, disgusted with the severity of the Dutch law, and, putting a golden joe into his left hand, I said to him: "I pity you." The poor fellow looked at the joe, then at me; tears at length started from his eyes, and he exclaimed: "Eh! massa!—Him be good man!"

I turned from him and walked back to Fort St. Andrews.

Another unfortunate wretch, called Sampson, from the enormous strength of his limbs and body, was a slave on a Dutchman's property near the Essequibo river, on the leeward coast. He had fled twice to the woods, and I saw him a few months after his second capture shackled with irons. The first time he ran to the bush in consequence of having been threatened with punishment for neglect of work. After a few days' absence, he returned at night to see a favourite female, residing among the Negro huts; but he rather overstaid his time, and was seen returning to the forest by another slave, who gave information of Sampson's motions. The necessary steps were taken to have him secured on his next visit; and, in the dead of night, the planter, his overseer, and four faithful Negroes, hid themselves near to his charmer's hut. At length Sampson was seen cautiously advancing: they lay close, and allowed him to pass and enter her hut, when, rushing in after him, they pinned him to the ground, and

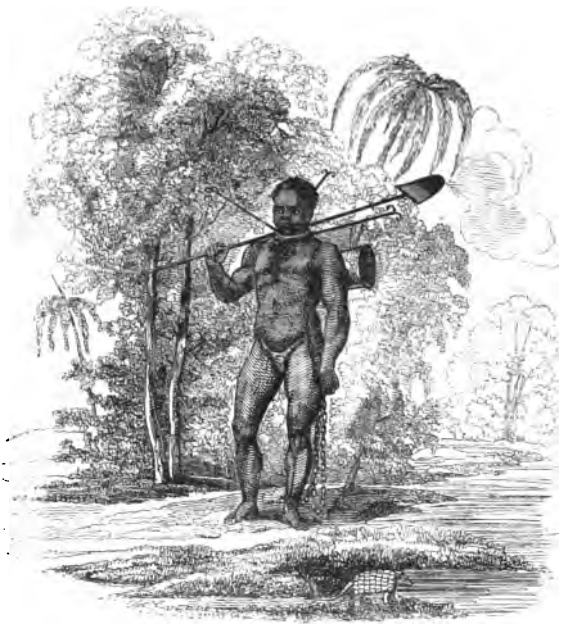
fastened his arms and legs with cords. The next morning he received a severe punishment with a heavy-thonged whip on his naked back. His eyes rolled with fury, and he muttered revenge against the Buckras. Scarcely had his back recovered from the wounds which it had received when he took an opportunity of escaping a second time into the forest. A twelvemonth passed; no tidings were heard of Sampson, and it was generally supposed that he had escaped to the Spanish Main. At length a party, consisting of twenty Negroes, with their overseer, entered the woods to cut some hard trees which grow a considerable distance back from the sea-coast, and which they required to renew some worn-out posts in repairing their sluices. The blows of their axes re-echoed through the forest. The sound struck upon Sampson's ear; he listened and wondered, and at length cautiously approached. He then laid himself flat on the earth, and, like a snake, drew his enormous limbs along the ground. Covered

by the bush, he approached the sounds nearest to him, and beheld two Negroes, detached from the others, felling a tree. His fierce black eyes now pierced through the dead leaves which covered them; his heart beat quick; he raised his head to observe that others were not near, and, after one bound, embraced them both, for Julius and Quaco were two of his most intimate friends and brothers in affliction. At this unfortunate moment the overseer turned round a bush, with his gun on his shoulder, and, immediately recognising Sampson, cocked it and took aim at the Black, who, with the rapidity of lightning, sprang at the white man, and, raising the muzzle of his piece, caused it to explode in the air; then, immediately seizing him round the waist and swinging him round, he dashed him with force to the earth. The overseer was followed at the distance of a few paces by the whipper-in, also a stout athletic Negro, having in his hand a large-thonged cutting whip, made of the

raw hide of a bullock. He came up at the moment when Sampson, throwing himself on the white man and grasping his windpipe, must have dispatched him in the course of a minute, had he not twisted the thong of his whip two or three times round Sampson's neck, and placed his right foot upon his head. The strangulation which immediately followed forced him to loose his hold, and his hands were secured behind him.

In this state he was conducted back to the plantation and taken before his master, who sentenced him to receive a severe flogging, and afterwards had an iron collar fastened round his throat, which had three legs sticking out from it, having, as represented in the sketch, hooks at their ends, which render it impossible for any human being to make his escape through the thick underwood in this country. In addition to this, his left leg was chained to an enormous heavy log of wood, which,

when he walked, was thrown over his left shoulder. In this state he was obliged daily to perform as much work as any other Negro on the estate.



It is seldom, very seldom, that these people show the courage which Sampson did in his attack on the overseer; but he appeared to me to be a determined, sulky Negro, burning with revenge against all of my own colour,

and for this reason I did not feel for him that commiseration which I should otherwise have done.

Some of the Negroes possess as good feelings as many of us Europeans, and only want education to render them as useful. To illustrate this assertion, I will now repeat the story which I afterwards heard of a Negro, called Louis, residing in the Island of Martinique. This poor fellow, having been christened after Louis XVI, held republican and jacobinical principles in the utmost horror and detestation; and the convulsions of the revolution, though they scarcely reached the French West India Islands, determined him to seek his livelihood elsewhere. By some accident he found his way to New York. He had always shown an instinctive sagacity, which he now turned to his own benefit, and finally set up a barber's shop, where, being genteel and mild in manners, his customers increased upon him. He had attended to the progress of the French revolution, and his feelings

were excited to the highest pitch when he heard of the execution of his namesake King; and, deliberately denouncing the French nation with their canaille parvenu rulers, and filled with the utmost indignation at their conduct, he took off his hat, and swore never to put it on his head again until the Bourbons should be restored to the throne. This little man was thenceforward seen walking the streets of New York, carrying his old hat under his arm with the air of a courtier, having his woolly locks filled with combs, scissors, and other implements, until his black hair turned as white as snow.

At length, in the year 1814, a French vessel arrived in New York, with the white flag flying, and bringing intelligence that the Bourbons were returned, and Louis XVIII. replaced on the throne of his forefathers. The news spread through the town like wild-fire; and black Louis, who was then in his little shop cutting the hair of a gentleman, was struck with such astonishment, when an acquaint-

ance of his customer's, passing along the street, repeated the news in the doorway to his friend, that both scissors and comb fell from his hands. He looked with anxious doubt in the face of his informant, and, seizing his old hat, which he had carried under his arm for upwards of twenty years, off he started without saying a word, and walked with hasty strides down to the battery, muttering all the way to himself. He there beheld the white flag with his own eyes; still he was not satisfied; till, going on board, he heard, from the mouth of the cook, the down-fall of Napoleon and the elevation of the Bourbons; and, immediately waving his hat three times in the air, accompanied by three huzzas, he replaced it on his head, and, hasten-ing to the shore, returned as fast as his legs would carry him to complete his job. Could even Louis XVIII. have felt more pride or more sincere joy on placing the crown of France upon his head, than this poor Negro did in putting on his hat!

The cruelty of the Dutch to their unfortunate slaves was equalled only by the abominations and horrors practised upon the aboriginal inhabitants of St. Domingo by the first Spanish settlers in that island. Those conquerors delighted in the exercise of strange and ingenious cruelties, and mingled horrible levity with their thirst of blood. They erected gibbets long and low, so that the feet of the sufferers might reach the ground and their death be lingering. They hanged thirteen together, in reference to our Saviour and the twelve Apostles. While these victims were suspended and still living, they hacked them with their swords, to prove the strength of their arms and the edge of their weapons. They wrapped them in dry straw, and, setting fire to it, terminated their existence by the fiercest agony.

Such occurrences show the extremity to which human nature may go when stimulated by avidity of gain, by a thirst of vengeance, or even by a perverted zeal in the holy cause

of religion. Every nation has in turn furnished proofs of this disgraceful truth, but they are generally the crimes of individuals rather than of the nation to which they belong.

CHAPTER XIII.

Sale of Slaves—Prices—Mynheer Catz—A Negro's Choice of a Wife—Indifference of the Slaves to their Fate—State of the Female Slaves—Two Negro Boys purchased by Captain Yates—Their Training for Domestic Servants—The Kishee-kishee Monkey—Adventure in a Shooting Excursion—A Water-hare caught alive by Captain Yates—Conduct of the Animal in Confinement—Canje Creek and Mynheer Catz's Plantation.

THE morning after the arrival of the slave-ship mentioned in the preceding chapter was ushered in as usual with a brilliant sky; and, after partaking of an early breakfast, Captain Yates, myself, and one or two other officers, proceeded early up to the town, in order to witness this traffic in human flesh, of which some of my companions had frequently before been spectators, although I had never yet seen it. When we arrived, I found myself just in time to hear the extravagant shouts

of delight set up by these poor wretches, and their loud halloos and clapping of hands on again touching terra firma. As each boat landed her cargo, they were immediately marched up by one of the seamen from the schooner to an open space in rear of the Government-house, where the sale was intended to take place: and it struck me as a most extraordinary sight to see a number of white planters examining these captives, limb after limb, as they stood before them, just as the dealers do with horses in our fairs in England.

The prices demanded for them were high, as this cargo was the last that could be admitted, and a great number of purchasers were present. It was curious to see, when a bargain was concluded, the new slave jog off with a veteran from his master's plantation, without even bidding farewell to any of his unfortunate companions, or showing the slightest feeling for his own situation. Some few stout, young, able-bodied men sold for

£150 each, others at £100, and boys at from £40 to £50. My friend Yates took a fancy to two of the latter, whom he immediately purchased. These little black urchins were about eleven or twelve years of age—but more of them hereafter. Women far advanced in pregnancy sold at nearly double price.

The extreme attachment which these unfortunate people entertain for an attentive and kind master was, upon this occasion, shown in a most extraordinary manner to a good-natured little man, Mynheer Catz, who was owner of a valuable coffee-plantation, at a short distance up the Canje river. He had brought with him two of his field Negroes, that they might please themselves in making choice of two women out of this cargo, not having been able to suit themselves with wives among those on the plantation.

Old Catz, turning round to his Negroes, pointed out two rather good-looking girls, and said: "Will these do for you?" One of them immediately replied: "Si Massera," and

took hold of one of the girls' hands. The other, who was a stout, well-made, good-looking Black, answered his master thus: "No, no, Massa, me no want wifee for handsome; me want him for workee for Massa and workee for me." "Well then," said his master, "make your choice." In about five minutes the fellow strutted up to his master, leading by the hand a well-made young woman, of exceedingly plain countenance; who afterwards turned out much better in every respect than the other, though her superior in personal strength and abilities.

Among the crowd of bidders and purchasers was an elderly Dutch lady of enormous size and corpulence, who thoroughly disgusted me with her indecency in examining the males who were for sale. She was, as I understood, the owner of a plantation up the river above the town, and arrived just in time to examine and purchase a few of this cargo, whom she required on her estate. We could not help cutting our jokes on her

conduct, which had no effect in raising her wrath against us. At last the whole of the slaves were sold and the ground cleared of them; and be it recorded that, among these numerous bargains, no mother was separated from her child; nor did I see male or female manifest the least sorrow on being parted from their companions.

When seated in our boat, on our way back to Fort St. Andrews, my ideas turned to the scene of which I had just been a spectator; and again I felt all the disgust and horror of slavery, which I had only the day before experienced on board the schooner.

How different are the feelings of these ignorant beings, whom I had just seen disposed of to the highest bidder, from ours! They, poor wretches, danced and sung during the sale; cheerfulness was depicted on all their countenances; and, when they became the property of a stranger, they trotted off with all the demonstrations of sincere plea-

sure. How fortunate that their ignorance is so complete!

It has been asked by many: "Will you, for the sake of drinking rum and sweetening your tea with sugar, persevere in this unjust and execrable barbarity?" I say to you, my friends, take heed, lest your humanity may, at the expence of your neighbours, and perhaps yourselves induce you to give up the advantages which you now possess, without the smallest chance of benefit or improvement to those unfortunate beings, whom I most heartily join with you in calling "our brethren."

Almost all the female slaves whom I observed in these colonies appeared to me to be as happy as the day was long. Early up in the morning, they accompanied their husbands to the field, at the signal given by the overseer; and were generally allowed to return a little before them to prepare their meal, which had been left in readiness. In the evening, at the conclusion of the day's

work, these poor creatures were seen running home from the field in search of their little children, who were too young to take part in their labours; and, placing them astride, with their legs across their hips, away they hurried off to the orchards, which were generally situated at the back of the estate, and they were soon seen returning with baskets on their heads filled with all sorts of delicious fruits, such as pine-apples, shaddocks, forbidden fruit, &c., to refresh themselves and their families in the cool of the evening.

I observed, throughout this country, that the women had much more the appearance of happiness and vivacity than the men: perhaps this cheerfulness of manner may be peculiar to their sex.

On landing at Fort St. Andrews, the two Negro boys followed us to our barracks, where Yates immediately gave them Roman names. He called the ugliest of the two Nero, and said to me, "I will keep him, and give

you Scipio to educate." I was delighted with the charge, and also with the poor boy, whose face was expressive of good-nature and mildness, which I afterwards found him to possess in a considerable degree. The next morning, having made them bathe and wash themselves well in the river, we dressed them in white canvass trowsers and shirts, and, at the hour of mess, strutted off with our two black boys behind us; they grinning at each other, as pleased as my lord-mayor on a show-day.

The first, second, and third day we kept them during dinner standing behind our chairs. On the third day we made them begin to wait upon us, and such ridiculous scenes now took place as nearly killed us all at table with laughter. Yates began with Nero. "Nero, the mustard!" Poor Nero knew nothing more than the sound of his name, and stood, staring at his master, with his mouth open. "The mustard, Nero!" he again vociferated, pointing to the sideboard.

Off flew Nero, and the mess-waiter, who was near, pointed to the mustard-pot; but, poor Nero, not giving himself time to observe the direction of his finger, seized a bottle of vinegar, and carried it to his master, who pretended to be in a great passion, and sent him back with it, calling out "Mustard! mustard!" This time the poor boy was more fortunate in catching the direction of the waiter's finger, and he succeeded in carrying back the article for which he was sent; when Yates, with the determination of impressing these ingredients more strongly on his memory, made him open his mouth, and put into it a spoonful of the contents, calling out, "Mustard, mustard," while the poor boy was spitting and sputtering, and dancing on the floor, from the effects of this hot substance. I practised the same discipline with Scipio, who had made a similar mistake with the cayenne pepper which I had called for. I, therefore, gave him a small portion of it for the same purpose of impressing it on his memory; which it did so

completely that he never afterwards forgot its name.

These two boys, from being our constant companions in boating, fishing, and shooting, soon became strongly and faithfully attached to us; and it was wonderful to see their readiness in finding out our wishes and the rapidity with which they learned our language.

About this time I purchased from a Negro a young monkey of the kishee-kishee species, which turned out the most amusing pet I ever saw. Every night this little animal slept with Scipio, rolled up in a blanket, at my door; and, in the evening, he used to drink grog with us, seated on my knee, and sometimes got so ridiculously drunk that it was the most amusing thing in the world to see him laughing at us with all the good-humour of an intoxicated man.

This little animal took a great fancy for one of Yates's terriers, little Fury, a strong, wiry-haired, vicious, little devil, who never,

by any chance, insulted Jacko. In the morning, when we whistled the dogs together and prepared for the chace, little Jacko invariably mounted astride on Fury's back, twisting his hand in her hair; and in this attitude he would ride through rushes, high grass, water, woods, or any other impediments, without letting go, until we returned home to the Fort. Sometimes, when little Fury took to swimming, poor Jacko, with his head just above the water, would scream in an agony of fright, but nothing would make him abandon his hold.

About this period, in one of our numerous shooting excursions down the river, Captain Yates, with myself and our two attendants, got into my boat, and, rowing along the right bank of the river, we whistled the dogs to follow us; this they did, hunting as they ran, though out of sight, being covered by the low bush, which grows to the edge of the water. We had not proceeded far, when the dogs gave tongue, as if in pursuit of game; and we im-

mediately pulled with all our might to keep pace with them; when a sudden plunge into the river, a little ahead of us, attracted our attention.

We immediately lay upon our oars, with guns prepared, waiting anxiously for the animal to put his nose above the water again; and, after some time, we saw him appear nearly half a mile in advance of us down the stream, making towards the shore. After remarking the spot where the animal landed, and collecting all the dogs in the boat, we immediately pulled down after him, and, on arriving at the place, jumped on shore. One of our dogs having soon found him and giving tongue, the animal was surrounded by nearly twenty others.

It may not be amiss here to observe that, in this place, the bush or shrubs grow in round masses of different sizes, the spaces between them being generally soft mud, on the banks of the river; it was in one of these that the dogs were baiting.

I took one side of this bush and Yates the other, with guns cocked ready for action. At this moment I heard a sudden yelping of the dogs, as if in pursuit, and almost immediately heard Yates calling to me from the opposite side. Running round as fast as my legs would carry me, I beheld my friend sprawling in the mud and struggling with a powerful animal. "D—n him! tie his legs!" he bellowed out to me, as the beast kept tossing him up and down with his feet; and immediately taking out my pocket-handkerchief, I caught hold of his two hind legs, and tied them together so securely as to render his escape impossible. Yates now withdrew from the struggle, completely covered with mud.

We found the animal to be a species of the hippopotamus, differing from those of Africa in shape, though their habits are much the same, being called in this country the water-hare. Its mouth exactly resembles that of a hare, having long front

teeth, very similar to those of the same animal; and it was of the size of a large English pig, the body being covered with stiff hair of a muddy brown colour on the back, and of a dirty white under the belly and down the inside of the legs. Its tail was extremely short; the back was broad; the ears short and erect; the head rather large. Most fortunately it proved to be an herbivorous animal; otherwise my friend Yates would have stood but a bad chance when in its power.

On my asking him if he knew what animal it was before he threw himself upon it, he answered, "No! The beast would hardly give me time to see it, and rushed past so near me that I could not point my gun; so the only way I had of securing him was to throw him down, with all my weight upon him." "My good fellow," said I, "do not expose your life against these animals. Suppose it had been a jaguar or tiger, what would you have done?" "The very same thing," he

answered, "had he even been one from Bengal." And such was his extraordinary infatuation in the chase that, I have no doubt, he would have been rash enough to make the attempt.

The two black boys were out of sight, and we could not imagine what had become of them; but, as we dragged our prize towards the boat, we discovered them sprawling at the bottom, frightened to death at the scuffle they had just witnessed. It is a most extraordinary fact that these wild people are more afraid of savage animals than we Europeans.

With a great deal of difficulty and trouble we at last succeeded in getting this extraordinary animal into the boat, and landed it safely in Yates's barrack-room, where we all assembled that evening to take our cigars and grog; and this singular beast the whole time kept running round and round the room, uttering a faint and plaintive cry whenever it was touched by any of us.

The next day we had it tied, near a pond of water in the barrack-square, by a long rope fastened round one of its hind legs; and it afforded us amusement for two or three weeks in hunting it with the dogs. The cunning animal, the moment it heard their voices approaching, instantly took to the water, and prepared itself for the attack in the very centre of the pond, which was a deep one. As they drew near, it would duck them under the water with its fore paws, so quickly as to tire them out, and oblige them to return to land half drowned.

One morning we found that this odd but amusing creature had loosened the cord and escaped to his native wilds, not much improved in politeness for its short sojourn among us. The flesh of this beast is considered excellent food, it being white and delicate like veal; but we could not determine on cutting our captive's throat.

The Canje creek was very frequently the

scene of our sports, where, among the thick branches of the beautiful forest trees, we always found some species of lovely birds to shoot at.

One day we extended our excursion above fifteen miles up this stream, and returned at night to sleep at Mynheer Catz's coffee-plantation. This little man had been formerly a Dutch Jew, who had arrived in this colony with a pedlar's box hung round his neck; but, from his excessive penury, he at last became possessed of a good plantation, to which he soon added a second, and, finally, a third; upon this he was living when I became acquainted with him. At this time he had a mestee daughter, to whom he was particularly attached; and, sending her to London for education, she was placed at one of the most expensive schools in this capital, as he intended her to inherit his whole property.

In these excursions we occasionally observed the fine hard-wood trees of this

country withered and destroyed by the bush-rope, while nests of some of the tropical birds were hanging over the water, but deserted by the feathered tribe, who had sagacity enough to perceive the decayed state of their support, which was destined soon to be carried away by the force of the stream.

CHAPTER XIV.

Sickness in the Colony—Unpleasant Duty of visiting the Hospital—Unhealthy Situation of the Fort—The Author accepts an Invitation to the East Coast—His Reception at the Plantation of Geanes—The Vulture—The Spoonbill—The Currie-currie—The Hammie-hammie—The Viscissy Duck—The Muscovy Duck—Abundance of Wild Fowl and Fish—Amusements of the Negroes—Dance called the Braziliero—Songs sung to it—Preparations for a Visit to a Moravian Missionary Settlement—Run along the Sea-coast—Mr. Lawson's—Torment of Mosquitoes—Voyage up the Corantine River—The Humming Bird—Islands in the River—Monkeys—Macaws and Parrots—A Solitary Bird—Prodigious Fish—Storm of Rain—Unpleasant Situation of the Voyagers.

About the 8th of June, 1806, the colony became uncommonly sickly; for, as I have before observed, from the month of June to that of September, this climate is very unfavourable to health: and now hardly a day passed without some men in the garrison, as well as those upon outpost duty, being carried to the hospital with dangerous fevers and severe bowel complaints.

It proved the most unpleasant part of our duty, when officer of the day, to be under the necessity of visiting the hospital, which was now crowded with ghastly objects lying in the agonies of death—for,

> "Dread Pestilence, with her poisoned tongue,
> Lurked in each breeze:"

and often did I shudder to behold a poor wretch, whom, only the day before, I had seen stout and in perfect health, writhing in the grasp of death, with eyes fixed on vacancy, his under-jaw hanging in a most frightful manner, and swarms of flies already seizing the body as their prey, even before the breath had left the already putrid form.

The situation of the Fort, owing to the swampy savannah in its rear, added much to the sickness; agues were common and severe of their kind: in short, I believe, there was not one of us in the garrison free from some kind of complaint. From frequent attacks of

ague I was much reduced in health and spirits, and was most happy on receiving a very kind invitation from Mr. Simon Fraser, a friend of my good colonel's, residing on the east coast, to spend some time with him, in order to shake off my complaint.

On Sunday, Mr. Fraser's plantation-schooner, which had been up to New Amsterdam with a cargo of cotton, called for me in the evening, and with difficulty I crawled on board of her. She immediately got under way; and, after an agreeable sail, we landed in about four hours at the plantation Geanes, on the east coast, and not very far from the Corantine river. This property belonged to Mr. M'Leod, and Mr. S. Fraser had the charge and resided on it.

On gaining the house, I found Mr. Fraser and a few friends amusing themselves with a rubber at whist. He received me with great kindness, and, during the time I remained with him, treated me with the greatest hospitality.

I soon derived benefit from the change of air, and, as I recovered strength, frequently amused myself with my gun. As the beach, in front of the estate, yielded abundance of birds at low water, I hardly ever returned to the house without six or eight brace of exceedingly fine specimens, consisting of spoonbills, currie-currie, plover, and various kinds of ducks.

The first birds I observed on this property were the vultures, the scavengers of these colonies, of which there were great numbers hovering about in all directions; and, from their being respected by the inhabitants of this country, who never disturb them, they paid not the least attention to me or my gun, but passed so close to my head that I was tempted to fire at several of them. I often saw one of these birds, elevated on the high dead limb of some gigantic tree that commanded a wide view of the neighbouring coast, calmly contemplating the motions of the various feathered tribes which busily pursued their

avocations below him—the snow-white and grey gull, slowly winnowing the air; the beautiful coloured spoonbill, intently watching and wading for his prey; the lovely scarlet currie-currie, flying in flocks along the beech; the clamorous muscovy-duck, and all the winged multitudes that subsist by the bounty of this vast liquid magazine of Nature.

He looked at them, and turned his head in silent contemplation; they were not food for him, for he never touches bird or animal whilst life remains in it. For blood he has no taste; but, the moment the air brings to his keen nostrils the putrid scent of a dead body, of fish, flesh, or fowl, his eye kindles, he balances himself, with half-open wings, on the branch, and, levelling his bare neck for flight, he launches into the air, following the odour which has struck his olfactory nerves. High in air he mounts, his unincumbered wings slowly and gracefully urging him through the upper regions; and,

arriving over the spot where the body which attracted him is now decomposing with the heat of the sun, he poises himself for a moment, and then descends to feed upon this delicious morsel. In my whole residence in these colonies, I never saw these birds attack a living animal; but I observed that they always preferred a stinking dead carcase to a living one. Hence their appellation of "scavenger."

The spoonbill is larger than a goose and web-footed. The bill, which is the most extraordinary part of this bird, is straight, flat, and about six inches long, with a small crook at the point, where it becomes broad and circular, exactly resembling a spoon. The head is rather bald, and of a whitish colour, and the body covered with feathers of a delicate pink. These birds, from their numbers, used frequently to put me in mind of a regiment drawn up in line, as they stood along the beach close to the water, catching the small fish brought up by the tide.

The currie-currie, or red curlew of Guiana, is a most beautiful bird for colour and elegance of shape, the neck, wings, and body, being of a bright scarlet; the four principal wing-feathers are tipped with black. The legs are long and slender. This bird is larger than the common curlew, and is excellent eating when young, at which time it is of a black colour, not changing to red till it is a twelvemonth old.

The hammie-hammie, as it is called by the natives, is a large heron, which, when standing erect, measures about six feet from its head to its feet. It has a long straight bill terminating in a point of a flesh colour; the top of the head is black, adorned with a small crest; the neck is long and white; the wings are brown tipped with black; and its back is covered with long hairy feathers.

The viscissy duck is smaller than our European bird of that name, and much handsomer in shape and colour. The bill, legs, and feet, are orange-coloured; and the fea-

thers on the top of the head brown, variegated with bars of a light chesnut colour. The breast is an exceedingly dark mahogany brown. These birds frequent the savannahs, where they breed, and resort in large flocks to the sea-coast, making a delicate sort of a whistle, not in the least resembling the notes of a duck in our country. They are extremely timid, so much so that I have known them, when fired at, to fall to the ground to all appearance dead, even though the shot had never touched them, but only through fright at the report. They are dexterous at hiding themselves in the grass, and, if not mortally struck, are scarcely ever to be discovered. Last year, I saw some young ducks brought from a rock in the Bristol Channel, not far from the small watering-place in which I resided for the bathing season, called Weston-super-mare. They exactly resembled this bird in marks and colours.

There are likewise immense flocks of the muscovy-duck, but they were not near so deli-

cate as the viscissy, their flesh being hard and fishy.

There are numerous other species besides the above birds which frequent the sea-coast to feed upon the smaller fish; and a planter who employs a Negro to shoot never need be at a loss for a dish of wild fowl. Fish are also in abundance along this coast, and some of them remarkably fine eating. The very trenches abound in good mullet, so that there is no scarcity in the supply of food for man even in this wild country. Indeed, I have sometimes seen a good Negro cook lay out a dinner equal to, if not surpassing, any that could be set before you by the famous Very at Paris.

The Negroes on this estate were the happiest set of people I ever beheld: content and good-humour were expressed in all their countenances. Every evening, in this clear climate, after their work was finished, they assembled in different groups with their tom-toms. With the exception of a calebash

filled with stones, and rattled every now and then, the tomtom is their only instrument, upon which they beat in excellent time. The dancers, keeping their bodies in constant motion, jigged to each other in the most extraordinary attitudes, singing verses in time to the tomtoms, and slapping their arms and thighs. They have in Portugal a similar dance, which is called the Braziliero, taken from the Blacks in the country after which it is named. This is danced with all the indecency of these people, the performers singing the whole time verses in their Negro language. I remember two verses in two of their songs, which I heard used in Portugal by the young common people during their dances.

MODINHO BRAZILIERO.

Amor entrar pelhos olhos,
Vai o peito deretinho
Si naõ achaõ resistancia
Vei seguindo sua caminho.

The following is a literal translation:

Love enters at the eyes,
And flies straight onward to the breast;

If it meets with no resistance
It still pursues its way.

A pachao que sinto n'alma
Pelos olhos bem se ve
Nao õ devade mostrar
Bem sei a rezaõ por que.
Eu q'ro morer juntinho a vo-ce
Congi de vo-ce naõ posso viver.
Ay! Ay! Ay! Ay! Ay! Ay! Ay!
Longi de vo-ce.

(Translation.)

The passion I feel in my soul
By my eyes is plainly seen;
I ought not to show it,
For well I know the reason why.
I wish to die near thee,
Far from thee I cannot live.
Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!
Far from thee.

The airs to which these songs were sung are sweet and melancholy, and the subject of the Negro song was much the same.

I served in Portugal from 1810 to 1820 under Marshal General Lord Beresford, as major, lieutenant-colonel, and full colonel, in the Portuguese army, and during this period

observed a great similarity between the lower class in that country and the coloured people in the West Indies. The climate is very similar, the sun being equally brilliant and powerful in both countries; and similarity of climate must cause similarity of dispositions and feelings, whatever the colour of the inhabitants may be.

On the 13th of June a large party of friends dined at the Geanes plantation, and among them was a Doctor Gordon, who had arrived from Berbice for the purpose of making a party up the Corantine river. He was determined to explore its unknown windings, and, if possible, to visit a settlement of German missionaries, where, for years, they had resided in these wild and impenetrable forests in the hope of teaching Christianity to the savage and wandering Indians. He now beat up for recruits, who were not slow in coming forward, and we soon mustered six adventurers, fit for any hazardous undertaking; and, when we considered the scanty

accommodation we should have to put up with in Mr. E. Fraser's colony schooner, we all thought this number quite sufficient.

Having laid in a good stock of provisions, in case of necessity, and a few trifling things to barter with the Indians, we embarked in high spirits from Mr. M'Leod's plantation, on Sunday evening, the 15th of June, 1806, and stood up the coast for the Corantine river, each of us being full of the ardour of discovery, and determined to push on as far as the season of the year would permit.

The coast here we found any thing but agreeable to sail along, and the numerous mud banks rendered the navigation exceedingly difficult. At last the helmsman, Mungo, a slave on Mr. M'Leod's plantation of Guedes, stood directly out to sea. The breeze down this coast was now rather stiff, attended with some heavy breakers, which produced sea-sickness in some of our party.

Having run out to sea to a sufficient distance to gain the mouth of the Corantine

river on the next tack, we were enabled to anchor the schooner off Mr. Lawson's plantation at eleven o'clock at night. We landed, and went to our hammocks in Mr. Lawson's house, which is the last in the colony of Berbice, situated close to the Corantine. From this place nothing is to be seen on either side but wild impenetrable forest, and the placid stream of the Corantine, which is about eighteen miles across at this spot, and beautifully interspersed with richly wooded islands.

June 16. This morning I arose heated and unrefreshed, not having been able to close my eyes during the night, owing to the immense number of mosquitoes, that bit and tormented me with their humming until daylight. On rising from my hammock, I found my eyes swelled to a frightful size, and the skin of my whole body and limbs covered with small watery blotches, occasioned by their bite. The heat, too, became intolerable, as the house on the east or windward side was covered

with bush and lofty trees, that prevented us from deriving any benefit from the morning breeze, which, in this climate, is so luxurious.

I have already mentioned the force with which the waters run down these rivers, and which preclude the possibility of making way against it. It was twelve o'clock before the tide turned in our favour, when we six adventurers immediately embarked on board our little schooner, and had scarcely weighed the anchor and got under sail, when a slight squall, accompanied by a heavy shower of rain, drove us for shelter into the little cabin, just large enough for two men to sleep in; and I will take this opportunity of introducing to you my *compagnons de voyage.*

The first was Doctor Gordon, a tall, raw-boned Scotchman, who was the planner of this excursion; secondly, Mr. Evan Fraser, a most gentlemanly young person, who took upon himself the fitting out of the expedition. Mr. King, Mr. Brummell, and Mr. Ingles, with myself, were hangers-on or useless con-

sumers of provisions: but a set of cheerful, good-humoured, rattling dogs as ever met together.

Before proceeding any further I must describe the humming-bird, of which thousands were seen this morning before we embarked; and, though the smallest in size, the beauty of its plumage entitles this diminutive bird to the first rank among the feathered tribe of the New World: for, had it existed in the old one, there can be no doubt that it would have claimed the appellation of the bird of paradise.

As you watch its motions it darts through the air as quick as thought; in one moment almost touching your face, and, in the next, being far out of reach. Now it sips the silvery dew, fluttering like a bee, from flower to flower: and, as the sun's rays fall on its beautiful plumage, they are reflected in all the colours of the rainbow. It is impossible to give an adequate description of this winged gem of nature, partaking, as it does, of the

colours of the ruby, the emerald, the topaz, and all the other most precious stones, set in burnished gold.

There are numerous species of this bird, the smallest not being larger than the humble-bee. Some of them have two long feathers in the tail; others have the tail forked like the swallow; and many of them, with purple and gold throats, glitter before you in ever-changing attitudes. There is but one species of the ara humming-bird, and an individual of this kind I shot this morning: it is the largest of this beautiful family, and surpasses all the rest in splendour of plumage, which is the finest scarlet, changing to green and gold. It had two long feathers in the tail. I saw it whilst dressing in the morning, and, loading my gun with a small portion of powder and a handful of rice, I shot it dead.

This species always hides itself in woods, and, leaving its retreat before daylight, feeds on insects about the water. It builds its nest on the end of a twig, hanging over the

water, in some unfrequented creek, far from the noise and turmoil of the busy world. No sooner did I now kill a bird, than, without having the necessary experience or materials, I set to work to skin and preserve it, at first badly enough, but I improved with practice, and took home a large collection from this country, which I presented to my dear mother in Edinburgh: but there must have been something radically bad in my system, as they held together only for a few years and then fell to pieces. But, were I again to visit this country, I hope that I should better understand how to preserve such specimens.

The clouds soon cleared away, and the sun shone forth in all his glory, just in time to give us a parting glimpse of the first island, which is about two miles in length and thickly wooded to the water's edge. The prospect, as we advanced, became wild and uncommonly beautiful. Clusters of small islands, which seemed to vie with each other in luxuriance, were every instant bursting on our

sight, the foliage and tints of which were beyond description. I observed a great number of the palm species every now and then raising their feathery heads far above the spreading tops of the mana and other trees, that clustered to the margin of the water, and formed an impenetrable barrier against man.

Towards evening, great numbers of monkeys came forth on the branches of the trees bordering the river to look at us, and made a most hideous noise and howling. The bush, however, was too thick for us to get a shot at them. Some macaws and parrots flew over us, and added greatly to the beauty of the scene, as the sun's last rays shone on their beautiful and variegated plumage. All the macaws which we saw this evening were the light blue and yellow, and the parrots green. The former birds were always in pairs, the latter flew in small flocks.

As we neared an island, or got under the main land, we sometimes observed a melan-

choly little bird, of beautiful plumage, seated near the water; and it was some time before we discovered that it feeds upon insects. It was sitting motionless, on the watch, upon a branch over the water, and, when a fly or butterfly passed, would dart at it and then return to the branch it had just left. This beautiful bird hardly ever comes near the habitation of man, but when sought after can always be found in the woods; and, though Nature has denied it the gift of song, she has clothed it in a costly garment.

The sun was now fast sinking, and our vessel began to decline in speed, as the wind had nearly died away and the tide also. We we were all on deck, conversing upon various subjects, when a loud exclamation from one of the Negroes, at the head of the schooner, attracted our attention. At the same time, pointing with his finger, he sung out: "Massa! Massa! dey biggee fiss!" We immediately hastened to the spot where he stood, and, on looking where he directed us,

we presently saw two monsters, that seemed, by their gambols, to be diverting themselves. They came up once just ahead of our schooner, and in an instant every gun on board was charged for their destruction; but they had now passed us, and the sun setting left us in total darkness. Before eight o'clock the tide began to turn against us, and soon came with such force as to oblige us to drop our anchor.

All was now as quiet as the grave, not a sound intruding on the stillness of Nature, which seemed to have sunk into profound repose; when, as we sat enjoying the novelty of our situation, the wind suddenly began to whistle around us in chill blasts, and the rain came down in torrents.

Nothing can be more dangerous to English constitutions than exposure to wet in this climate, unless the moist clothes can be immediately changed; so down we all tumbled into the cabin for shelter: but we had not accommodated our numbers to its size, and a scene

ensued which could only be equalled by the Black Hole at Calcutta. One side of our miserable apartment was taken up by a birth, or sleeping-place, into which one of our party with some difficulty crept, it being so low that he could only get in on hands and knees. The opposite side of the cabin merely held a hard wooden bench; on which, with considerable squeezing, we contrived to stow the remaining five. The further end was encumbered with trunks, provisions, and salt fish, which communicated no agreeable perfume to the air. The rain still continued pouring down with great violence; and we were obliged to exclude it by keeping on the hatch; in a short time the heat became insufferable, and we were almost as dripping wet with perspiration as if we had been exposed to its utmost fury. But no choice was left: for, had we been exposed to the tempest, in such a boisterous night, it would have proved dangerous to our constitutions. We, therefore, decided that it was much

better to remain in the cabin with our noses near the crevice of the hatch, to inhale the only fresh air that entered. At twelve o'clock we were all gasping for breath; the rain still poured down with redoubled violence. Mr. Brummel at last called out for water, but none was brought to him, as the three Negroes on board had crept into a little hole in the schooner's bow, which was now called their cabin. He could bear it no longer; and, bursting open our hatch, spent the rest of the night on deck, in defiance of the weather and all the fevers in the world.

At three o'clock the rain abated, and we five stewed heroes sprung on deck and found our poor friend Brummel wet to the skin and beginning to shiver. Doctor Gordon instantly sent him below, and made him change every stitch of his clothes and swallow a glass of brandy, which alone preserved him from a serious attack of illness. All Nature was still wrapped in repose; nothing was

visible throughout the profound gloom that surrounded us: and, spreading my cloak on the deck of the vessel, to avoid the damps, I soon lost all care for myself and for the world in a sound slumber.

CHAPTER XV.

The Houtou—The Party land on an Island—The Author and one of his Companions set out to explore it—Luxuriant Vegetation—Nest of Black Ants—Unsuccessful Fishery—Pepperpot—The Cockarito Palm, or Cabbage Tree—Poisoned Arrows of the Indians—Instance of the fatal effect of the Poison—The Mary-bunter, a species of Wasp—Beautiful Butterflies—An Indian Canoe—Traffic with the Indians—Female Indians—Comparison of the African Negro, the South American Indian, and the European—Superiority of the European.

On Tuesday the 17th of June, the sun darted his rays through the tops of the highest trees before I opened my eyes, and renovated every surrounding object with his cheerful appearance; and now the shrill notes of the hanoqua, which is of the pheasant kind, and the soft notes of the houtou, struck my attention. He who wishes to see this magnificent bird must be in the forest at morning's dawn, for the houtou shuns the society of man. The plantations and cultivated

grounds are too much frequented for this inhabitant of the woods, and the thick and gloomy forests are the places preferred by him: in these far-extending wilds, about day-break, you hear him articulate, with a loud and clear voice, in a distinct and mournful tone, "Houtou, houtou," and, in the stillness of the surrounding scene, these sounds striking upon the ear are peculiarly delightful.

The hoarse scream of the macaws, added to the chattering of monkeys, was a truly enlivening sound, as these animals became sensible of the return of day. We had as yet killed only one or two of these lovely foresters flying over our heads: and, after three years' residence in this country, I learned from experience how seldom the birds and animals are to be met with in these unlimited forests, which must be owing to the small number that exist there.

We now soon got under weigh, and proceeded slowly on our course through a multitude of small and beautiful islands. At

nine in the morning, the tide slackened; and we anchored close to a small island, which seemed to invite us to take shelter under its cool and shady trees. We resolved to land and breakfast on this delightful spot; and, having armed a couple of stout Negroes with hatchets, after running the head of the boat into the bush, we set them to work in order to clear away an entrance; and perhaps we were the first human beings who had ever set foot upon its soil. After felling a large tree, we set the cook to prepare the pepper-pot at one end, while the other served us for table and benches.

Leaving the four gentlemen to superintend the preparation of every thing necessary for our meal, Evan Fraser and myself, attended by one of the Negroes, sallied forth with our guns, to explore this little island, and to obtain a view of the channel on the other side. Our progress was frequently interrupted by the immense variety of beautiful shrubs and flowers, which not only engaged

our attention, but also were so thickly matted together as to cause us great difficulty in making our way through them. It was amazing to see with what luxuriance every species of plant here thrived; but what surprized me most was to observe how small the stems of all the trees were. Our old oaks in England are giants in size to all those which I now beheld; though in height some of them even surpassed the pine, which I have since seen among the Alps.

We were at length attracted by the beauty of a small upright tree, the branches of which seemed bending under the weight of very large, fine-looking fruit, resembling an apple, of gigantic size and of a yellow colour. I made an immediate attack on one of them, and, on succeeding in pulling it down, I felt my hands, face, and neck, covered with black ants of enormous size. On looking among the branches, I discovered a large nest of those insects, snugly constructed, in the upper part of the tree, which my shaking had dis-

turbed; but, on receiving no bite or sting, I soon contrived to get rid of them.

We now arrived at a small creek, that seemed, by its direction and the course in which the water ran, and which was the same as that of the large river, to pass directly through the island: in this creek we expected to catch a few good fish, but were disappointed, either through our awkwardness, or because there were none in it. Poor Fraser slipped in up to his waist, and came out again wishing all the fish at the devil.

We observed great numbers of the cockarito, or cabbage-tree, and the beautiful manicol palm-tree: but, although this lovely spot was so adorned by Nature, it seemed quite deserted by all the animal and feathered tribe, for we could not discover the least trace of inhabitants of either class upon this island.

The distant shouts of our friends now warned us to return, and, after a few more difficulties, we beheld the four we left be-

hind us seated round an earthenware pot, regaling themselves with the pepper-pot. This is a dish peculiar to this country, and, when well made, a most delicious one: the chief ingredient is the juice of the cassada-root, which is stewed with any kind of meat, fish, or vegetable, and a handful of the small red cayenne pepper. It is seldom liked by Europeans at first, but soon becomes a gene ral favourite. On this occasion we ate with it roasted plantains instead of bread. Having satisfied our appetites, we fell to work to cut down some of the cabbage-trees for the purpose of taking the eatable part on board with us. The cockarito palm usually grows to the height of fifty feet, and produces the most delicate cabbage of any of the palm species. The cabbage is found in the very heart of the tree at the summit, enclosed in a greenish husk, which is peeled off in strata, until the white cabbage, or inner leaves, appears in long, thin, white, flakes, in taste much like the kernel of a nut: the heart, or centre of it,

is the most delicate, and is used frequently as a salad, being particularly sweet and crisp; the outside, when boiled and eaten with butter and salt, is far more delicious than our European cabbage.

On this tree is found a worm, or maggot, called grogro, which is considered a great delicacy in this country. It is the larva of a

black beetle, and grows to the length of four inches and the thickness of a man's thumb. These worms, disgusting as they are in appearance, furnish a delicious treat, partaking, when well dressed, of the flavour of all the spices of the East. They are found in such trees only as are in a state of decay.

It is the external substance of the bark of the cockarito palm that the Indians employ, on account of its excessive hardness, for their poisoned arrows. They generally make them twelve inches long, with one end sharpened to a point, which is dipped into the poison of the wouralie, so called, from the nebe, or bush-rope, which forms the principal ingredient in its composition. The other end is wrapped round with a small piece of natural cotton, adapted to the cavity of a long hollow reed, through which it is blown.

The arrow thus prepared is inserted into a hollow reed, nine feet in length, and, with one blast of the breath, is sent with great force and swiftness, always making sure of the

object to which it is directed, and carrying inevitable death to the person or animal from which it draws blood.

As a proof of this, I was informed by a gentleman of our party, that in the preceding year he had made a purchase of a blow-pipe and poisoned arrows from an Indian; and, fearing lest some accident might happen from people not being aware of the dangerous nature of the poison, he desired the Indian to scrape it off; in doing so he unfortunately drew the knife across his finger, which caused the blood to flow. He looked at the wound for some time; then, laying himself on his back, patiently awaited the death which he saw no possibility of escaping.

Whilst attending the cabbage-tree cutters, I saw something resembling a fine fruit hanging suspended under a leaf, which, upon turning up to look at it near, to my infinite horror, my hand was, in an instant, covered with a small Mary-bunter, or wasp. They stung me in so shocking a manner as to make

the blood flow from each sting, and I roared out with agony. The whole nest now swarmed about me, and I had to trust to my heels for my safety. The Negroes were much alarmed at them, and, immediately on getting on board the schooner, washed my unfortunate hand with a preparation which they kept in a bottle, and which in a great measure eased the pain; but it was three days before I could again use it.

Whilst at breakfast on the island, we saw several magnificent butterflies of varied and superb colours, but, with all our cunning, could not take one: most of them were of the light blue species.

Soon after embarking, a heavy shower of rain fell from a passing cloud. As it cleared off, the sun's rays struck upon a small object in the water, moving along at a considerable distance above us. As it drew nearer, we discovered it to be a canoe, with three natives of these forests, which soon after paddled alongside of us. We found it to contain

an Indian of the Arrawaka nation, with his two wives; one of the females, from her appearance, I should have supposed to be older than her husband, who was about thirty years of age; the other was considerably younger and much more round and plump in make.

They immediately produced a few things in the provision way for barter, the whole of them calling, "Sopie, sopie," which meant a dram; and, for a glass of rum each, they gave us a piece of smoke-dried fish, which we found at dinner to be bad enough, as no salt had been used in curing it. I took a fancy to a curious necklace of beads, or

seeds, of a brown colour, which the man had on, hanging over one shoulder. They were perfumed, which he made me remark, though too sweet to be agreeable; and I collected, as well as I could understand him, that they were the kishei, difficult and rare to obtain, as they can only be had a great distance up the country. When I offered him a bottle of rum in exchange, I thought the poor Indian's delight was as strong as the spirits; and, immediately taking the seeds off his shoulder, he put the string of them into my hand with a smile of satisfaction.

The two women seated in the canoe, which was an exceedingly small one, with three or four dogs, were, without exception, the most frightful specimens of human nature I had ever beheld. Both had their long hair rolled in a dirty mass, and fastened on the top of the head by means of a wooden skewer stuck through it. The younger was by far the better looking of the two; and both of

them were totally naked, with the exception of a small covering, made of beads, for those parts of which modesty forbids the exposure.

The bosom of the elder of these women looked just like two empty purses made of the tanned leather, called in Spain saragosa; and I should rather have taken her for one of the Furies of the infernal regions described by the ancient poets than a female inhabitant of this terrestrial paradise.

I had now a very excellent opportunity of examining and comparing together the shape and complexion of an African Negro, a South American Indian, and a European. — What can be the reason of this difference? We are told that "God created man in his own image — in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

I wish some philosopher would unravel the process by which Nature produces these varieties of colour; here are the ideas of a

field-officer, if the reader would like to peruse them.

An African becomes black owing to the burning climate in which he lives; being surrounded by an atmosphere still more heated by the sandy desert over which the trade winds pass before they reach the habitable parts of his continent.

The Indians of South America, who live under the same degree of latitude, receive this wind refreshed by the Atlantic Ocean; and, being moreover shaded by their woods, their complexion is less dark, assuming a brown or olive colour.

The European, residing within the temperate zone, does not receive heat enough to give his complexion so deep a hue as that of the natives of either of the above continents; and his cold winters cause him to be white.

The woolly hair of the African, the straight black hair of the South American, and the lighter hair of the European, are

each an effect proceeding from the same cause.

Whilst in the West Indies, I once saw a Negro who was evidently a *lusus naturæ*, for his black skin was spotted with white like some kinds of marble; but this fellow was a stout man who laboured well.

There is another point worthy of notice, in regard to the American, the African, and the European, namely, the difference in their form, or make, which is very striking to an observer.

I have examined them all three, but cannot form an opinion which is best for natural purposes; though I adjudge the decided superiority to the European in point of personal appearance and outward beauty.

As to brute strength, I think it nearly equally divided among the three. Education has given courage to the European, and, by these means, we are enabled to master the unfortunate Negro and the South American Indian. The heel, the shin-bone, the lips,

the nose, and the woolly hair, of the African, are marks never to be mistaken; whilst the neat foot, and remarkably straight limbs, the small eyes, and straight black hair of the South American Indian are his distinguishing characteristics.

If I am induced to give the preference to the European, it is perhaps owing to my belonging myself to that race, and to my never having been placed in the situation of Major Laing, the son of my old Edinburgh schoolmaster, who, on entering a town, when on his travels in Africa, was surprized at the astonishment manifested by the inhabitants on seeing, for the first time, a white man; so humbled was he at his own colour that he would have given the world to be a black.

What an expression of manly courage, generosity, and feeling, is to be observed in the countenance of the European—an expression that defies the art of the sculptor to produce a resemblance; while his hair, partaking

of the nature of the South American's and the African's, is long and curling! How many such noble figures have we still in Europe; and how many more should we have, if luxury and vice had not crept in to debase us!

CHAPTER XVI.

Notes of Birds—Midday Silence—Slow advance against the Current—Indian Crab-hunters—Two of the Party proceed in a Boat to the Missionary Settlement—The Firefly—Threatened Storm—The Land-crab—Beautiful Scenery—Excessive Heat—Letter from Dr. Gordon and Mr. Fraser—Arrival at the Missionary Settlement—Description of the House—The Missionaries—Accommodation provided for the Travellers.

THE tide having turned in our favour, we weighed anchor, and continued our course through clusters of rich islands covered with wood, each, as we advanced, presenting to the view a variety of tints. The forests at times re-echoed with shrill screams of monkeys and other animals, and a few birds of radiant plumage occasionally passed us, but not within shot. As we stood up close under the main land, nothing could equal our delight at the noises we now and then heard,

either from some of the insects, of which there are myriads in these woods, astonishing in their form and size, and beautiful in their tints. The shrill voice of the bird called pi-pi-yo is distinguished at intervals, and the plaintive whistle of the tinamou and the campanero never fails to attract the attention of the curious. You may hear this snow-white bird tolling every minute or two like a distant convent-bell.

You must rise early to hear the mingled cries of the feathered race in this country, for after ten o'clock they generally die away, and, from eleven to three or four, all Nature is hushed in midnight silence. It is then that the solar heat obliges the birds to seek shelter in the thickest shade and wait for the refreshing coolness of the evening before they again begin to hunt for food.

Thus do the people of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, regularly retire to rest during the excessive heat of the day, and renew their labour as soon as it is past.

At four o'clock the tide turned against us, and we began to find that we had chosen the worst time of the year for an excursion up these rivers, as the quantity of rain which had fallen caused such a current almost continually against us, that we advanced slowly and tediously.

Some of the party began to tire and grow sick of their constant confinement in our small vessel, and wished themselves at home again; but the majority of votes decided us in proceeding, and carrying our first plan into execution in spite of grumblers. I was enthusiastic in the undertaking, delighted with what I had already seen, and most anxious to prosecute our researches. A canoe of Indians now came down the river, running with the stream; and, on seeing our schooner, they pulled towards us. We learned that these people were going to hunt crabs, and with great difficulty we made them understand that we wished to know how far it was to the missionary settlement.

We conceived ourselves warranted in concluding, from their words and gestures, that one tide more would carry us up to it. Some of our party immediately proposed going up in the small boat belonging to the schooner; and it was finally determined that Doctor Gordon and Mr. E. Fraser should proceed, and, if possible, on their arrival, procure canoes to be sent down for the rest of us. Having laid in a few eatables, in the event of the distance to the Missionaries being greater than we had reason to expect, our companions soon disappeared with the boat, pulled by two stout Negroes.

About seven o'clock, whilst seated on deck, listening to the variety of languages spoken by the different birds congregating and separating in these woods for the night; now and then a solitary goat-sucker would dart from his lonely retreat, and skim along the trees on the river's bank, and the different species of frogs were now croaking at each other with a hoarse and hollow sound.

As it grew darker, the vivid sparks of the firefly, which we saw in every bush around us, directed us where to keep clear of land; as, like lighthouses, they appeared on the branches of every tree to warn us of our danger. This little insect, when caught and held gently in the hand, will enable you to read in a dark night; but, when you have done, pray let it go back to the nearest branch, where it will show its delight and gratitude to you by the flashes of light which it will emit.

The distant thunder now made the hollow woods resound, and the sky grew darker and darker: a chill blast of wind came down the river, and we pitied our two friends exposed to the approaching storm, and called for a bottle of wine to drink to their successful voyage. At nine o'clock the heavens cleared, and the storm which had threatened us seemed to have taken pity on our two companions, exposed in the open boat, when the paddling of a canoe, accom-

panied by a wild Indian song, struck our ears. We hallooed with stentorian lungs: "*Mati! mati!*" which means "Friends! friends!" This they soon heard, in the stillness of the night, and were not long in coming alongside of us, when we learned that they had been crab-hunting, this being the finest season for taking that animal, which was now on its march towards the sea.

The abenoura, or land-crab, is of the size of a man's hand: the body, quadrangular, and of a vivid blue colour, is supported by eight legs, four on each side, covered with long bristly hairs, and, towards the end, tending to a flesh colour. They burrow in the earth near the sea-shore and on the banks of rivers, from which they are dug out by the Indians, who are very fond of them. They are likewise eaten by the white inhabitants, who reckon them a great delicacy. The usual manner of dressing them is to pick out all the flesh, which is then made into a rich and palatable

stew, with plenty of cayenne pepper, and dished up in their own shells. In this way they are generally thought not inferior to turtle. When plain boiled, or roasted in the ashes, the way in which the Indians commonly eat them, they are insipid to the taste and disgusting to look at. There is another species of these land-crabs, found in the mountainous part of the country, which are considered much more delicate than the abenoura. They resort at a particular season to the sea, always marching in a direct line, and in immense bodies, and are taken in great numbers by the Indians who fall in with them. An elderly Indian in the canoe now held up a large piece of smoked fish, for which he demanded a sopie, or dram; nor would this party leave us until every individual, men, women, and children, had been regaled with a sopie.

After each of them had swallowed a dram of new rum, which we had on board for the purpose of pleasing these people, they shoved

off, singing and screaming with delight at our generosity.

The melancholy hooting of an owl now proclaimed that night had arrived; and, stretching myself at full length on the deck, I was transported in imagination from this world to another, still more enchanting than that which I had just been admiring; and sleep, with refreshing influence, steeped my senses in forgetfulness.

When I arose the next morning, Wednesday, 13th of June, I found that the sun had already begun to tinge the rich foliage of the trees under which we lay. What a scene of beauty now burst upon my sight! The river was seen for miles above us, dotted with lovely islands, pursuing its meandering course towards the sea, its banks covered by trees of gigantic height. Here their leaves were of a lively green, mixed with purple, yellow, and brown; and sometimes the beautiful creeper, called by the Indians the caracara, extended its scarlet blossoms from

branch to branch in the form of garlands; whilst the manicol, and other kinds of palm, in great numbers, raised their feathered heads above this mass of foliage.

My soul overflowed with joy, as I beheld this lovely scene, and I could not help fancying that the garden of Eden, as described in Scripture, must have been like this spot.

Each island differed from the rest in size and form, and I fancied myself transported to fairy-land. Nothing recalled me again to this world but the sight of a magnificent old mora-tree, whose sapless branches now hung in melancholy disorder over the rushing stream, as if in sorrow watching for the moment when its waters, which were doomed to receive it, would bear its aged trunk far away.

All hands were now obliged to assist in heaving the anchor, having only one Negro left to assist us; and I took the helm of the schooner to steer her. With a cool and refreshing breeze, we cut through the water

at a good rate; but in the course of an hour were forced again to come to anchor, the breeze having gradually died away, as the heat of the sun became more intense. By the time he had attained his meridian height, the heat grew so intolerable that we knew not what to do with ourselves. Some were for plunging into the river, but the recollection of the all-devouring alligators, which abound in these streams, cooled their courage. It was complete suffocation to remain in the cabin of this small vessel, and quite impossible to continue on deck exposed to the scorching rays of the sun. Necessity has no law; so, setting our wits to work, we lowered the main-sail, and, unshipping it from its place, turned it into an awning to protect us.

Under this canopy we sat sweltering in the fierce heat of a southern clime till two o'clock in the afternoon, trying to make a sketch of a very beautiful little island before us, when I discovered something moving on

the water in the distance. With the assistance of a spy-glass, we made it out to be a large canoe approaching us; and we were soon able to discover that her crew consisted of a Black seated amongst some red Indians. A short time brought her alongside of us, when my friend Mungo delivered a paper to the following effect:

"You and the other gentlemen may thank God that you were not in the boat with Evan and me; such an unlooked-for disaster never befell two such unfortunate knights. After pulling as hard as horses till eleven o'clock at night, we could not get thus far, and therefore resolved to pass the remainder of the night under the canopy of heaven; but the Negro tied the boat so close to a tree, in the creek we came to, that, at low water, while we were all asleep in the stern, the boat somehow or other got under water and every soul of us were canted seven feet deep into the river.

"With much difficulty we escaped with

our lives, but lost boat-cloaks, umbrellas, &c. and we got here about sunrise this morning; and now send you a large canoe, with some Indian boys to pull you up. All the old Indians are gone from here. With joint compliments to all, we are

"D. GORDON AND EVAN FRASER."

We were all most happy at the arrival of the canoe, but much more so at the fortunate escape of our friends; and, having put every thing we thought necessary into her, we left directions with the Black, who was now called by us Mungo Park, after the celebrated African traveller, to bring up the schooner as wind and tide should permit.

We now started to undergo the most tiresome pull I have experienced, against a strong current, exposed to the intense heat of a tropical sun, without a breath of air to refresh us. Often did we lay hold of some convenient branch to rest our crew, which consisted of four lads, from twelve to thirteen

years of age. These poor boys, when we first started, pulled or rather paddled to a chorus; but after a few hours it gradually died away, and we were obliged to ply them with rum to make them exert themselves. In short we did not arrive at the settlement of the Missionaries until nearly eight o'clock at night; and, when it appeared in sight, backed by the deep forest, we set up a shout which must have disturbed every animal for miles around. As we drew nearer to the landing-place, the first objects I discovered were Doctor Gordon and Mr. E. Fraser, ready to receive us at the water's edge, dressed in a most curious fashion, with each a long Dutch pipe in his mouth; and, on jumping on shore, we found that they had been obliged to borrow raiment from these people whilst their own was hung out to dry. The Germans appeared most happy at seeing us, as well they might be, thus secluded from the whole civilized world. They conducted us to their house, where we underwent an in-

troduction to their three wives, who had prepared for us an excellent supper of baked wild hog's flesh.

Their dwelling is placed close to the water, with a row of fine orange trees in front on the margin of the river, now covered with fragrant blossom and golden fruit. It consisted of one very large roof, thatched in so beautiful a manner by the Indians as to resemble basket-work. The inside is divided into a sitting-room and four bed-rooms, so contrived that the centre is the sitting-room, of a quadrangular shape, having four doors leading from it into the four bed-rooms; which arrangement gives to the latter the advantage of windows to admit the air. This society consists at present of four men and three wives, who were educated and sent out from Herrnhut, in Upper Lusatia, which is the principal settlement of the Moravians, and whence they are frequently denominated Herrnhuters.

One old man informed us that he had resided twenty years in this solitary place

with an antiquated German dame. He seemed to enjoy good health, and, as far as I could observe, was perfectly happy. Immediately after supper was ended, we were shown into the chapel, which is within sight of the dwelling-house and corresponds with it in neatness. Here we found hammocks slung for the accommodation of us all, with each a basin of water by its side. We soon retired to rest, but frequently, during the night, were disturbed by large vampyre bats that came about us in great numbers; and we all expected to have every drop of blood sucked from our bodies before morning. Most fortunately we all awoke untouched, which is a circumstance that, in all probability, might never again occur to any of us six placed in a similar situation. The cause, beyond a doubt, was our lying so close together, which kept the animals in constant alarm, as one or other of us moved in his sleep.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Chapel—Hammock-makers—The Burial-ground—The Post-holder and his Family—Indian Village deserted on account of the Small-pox—The Powie-powie—Magnificent Vegetable Productions—The Wow-wow—Village of Arrawaka Indians—Hut of the Chief—Visited by the Travellers—Presents made by them.

THE first thing that presented itself when we opened our eyes, on Thursday morning, the 19th June, was a cup of excellent coffee, which the good dames had prepared, knowing it to be the custom in this country.

I immediately dressed myself, and examined more particularly the holy place in which we had been hanging, like so many flitches of bacon from the beams of a farmer's cottage. I observed on one side a table and chair, elevated from the ground by two wooden steps, and from this seat the Mis-

sionaries deliver their sometimes instructive lectures to their savage audience. The remainder of the building was filled up by regular seats or rows of benches, on which the Indians take their places according to their ages—the old men being next the wall on one side and the old women on the other, and so on until the front rows are covered with children; the males on one side, the females on the other. One end of this church was divided off by a partition, behind which I heard some people employed at work; and, finding my way round to the door, I discovered three or four Indian women making hammocks, which, for want of proper machinery, must be to them excessively tedious work.

These poor creatures have, first of all, to spin the cotton into thread, which they do exactly as the Europeans, by spindle and distaff. It is then wound double round two sticks, which are fastened about seven feet asunder; the threads being placed exactly

parallel to each other, until they extend eight or nine feet according to the length which the hammock is intended to be. They then begin the weaving, by letting off, or rather taking off, the first row of threads, and passing it through a roller, composed of a piece of stick with thread upon it, by way of a shuttle, and then this is knocked down by a heavy piece of hard wood, cut for the purpose; this is done backwards and forwards until the work is finished. Some of the cleverest work them beautifully in open-work patterns, but in either way it takes months to finish one.

The Moravians make quite a little trade with these hammocks, for most of the inhabitants of the lower settlements sleep in them, as they prefer them to beds. They, therefore, send them now and then down to Surinam and Berbice, where they bring a high price, from nine to twelve joes, which is from seventeen to nineteen pounds sterling.

Having quitted the hammock-makers, I sauntered along a small path, which seemed to lead me into the forest, and proceeded about one hundred yards, walking amid the delightful odour of orange-trees in blossom, evidently planted by the Missionaries, when I arrived at an open square spot of ground, which, as I soon perceived, contained the bodies of those Indians who, having been baptised and admitted into the bosom of the church of Christ, here received christian burial. They were laid in regular rows; each individual having a tamarind or orange tree, which were planted in straight lines at the head. Under it was placed a block of wood by way of tomb-stone, on which was engraved only the name and date of their death.

On returning to the house, I found the hungry party anxiously waiting for me, as the Germans would not sit down to table until we were all assembled. No sooner were our appetites satisfied, than we prepared to cross the river to the post-holder's, whose

hut stood on the declivity on the opposite side, and higher up the river, covered with cocoa-nut trees. These post-holders, as they are called, are generally Indians employed by the governors of the colonies to give information immediately on any warlike movements being made among the Indians in the woods, for which they receive a gratuity. As we approached in our canoes, we saw the post-holder stationed here coming down to receive us, followed by five or six young Indian men, whom we supposed to be his sons. On our landing, he advanced towards us, calling out "*Mati! mati! baithdai?*" which in our language signifies "Friends! friends! do you know me?" We of course shook him by the hand, and made him a present of some gunpowder, when he turned and said something to a young man, which we did not understand until we saw the youth coming down the hill loaded with cocoa-nuts. In a moment he had the eye of one cut out, and presented it to me, as I was dressed in

uniform; and, as soon as all our party had refreshed themselves, we sallied forth with our guns upon our shoulders, to visit an Indian village situated at a short distance in the forest. We were accompanied by Mynheer Burgh, the youngest missionary. But here we found that dire disease had been before us. The small-pox, which some unfortunate Indian had caught when visiting the lower European settlements, he had brought with him to this hitherto healthy village; it spread like wild-fire, and, as there was no medical man to check it in its rapid progress, the Indians deserted their dwellings, and took to the woods, leaving the unfortunate sufferers to the care of a few old women. We were lucky enough to gain information of another village, about three miles, or two hours, from this, situated back from the river; and, happy to quit this wretched scene, we proceeded thither, guided by one of the post-holder's sons.

The walk was excessively hot, owing to

the high forest, which kept every breath of air from penetrating; and we at length reached a rich glen, in the bottom of which ran a spring of clear water. We were all rushing down to it, when a couple of large black-looking birds started on the wing, screaming as they flew, "Powie, powie." They took us so much by surprise that three of the party only had time to level their guns, and, most probably, all fired at the last, which came tumbling to the earth. Fraser and myself were the first to seize it, and found it to be the wild turkey of these woods, called by the Indians, from its cry, the powie. It is not much inferior in size to the turkey of Europe. Its head, neck, and body, are of a shining black, and it has a long tail, consisting of several broad feathers, which it can spread at pleasure. The bill is a bright yellow, and it has a beautiful crest of erect feathers of a shining black very curiously curled near the points. The flesh is white and good when dressed. These birds

are much esteemed by the Indians, and, as they are in abundance, they constitute a considerable part of their food. I took two of these fine birds alive home with me to Scotland, in 1808, but an Edinburgh winter killed them both.

To get out of this glen, on the opposite side, we found the ascent steep and difficult to mount, owing to the immense quantity of dead leaves that rendered it slippery. This was the first hill I had climbed on this extensive continent. After gaining the height, we found ourselves again on a thickly wooded plain. This country is wonderful for its productions; and heedless, indeed, must that man be who can journey on without stopping to take a passing view of its vegetation. A tropical sun, with the richest mould, must be the cause of the enormous height which the trees here attain.

In the "Life of Columbus," by Washington Irving, he mentions the magnificent size which trees attain in the West India islands, as

an instance of which he adduces a canoe formed of the trunk of a single tree, which was measured by the admiral, who found it to be ninety-six feet long and eight feet broad.

I verily believe it would require a book as large as Lord Londonderry's "History of the Peninsular Campaigns" to describe the various qualities and virtues of all the vegetable productions of this climate. We were now surrounded by the green-heart, which is famous for its hardness and durability, and the tough hackea, the ebony, and letter-wood, vying with the choicest woods of the old world; the locust, yielding copal; the hayawna and olou trees, which give a sweet-smelling resin; and the ducalabali, surpassing mahogany; which are all to be met with in these forests.

Eternal spring, summer, and autumn, seem to reign here at one and the same time; for upon many of the trees and shrubs are to be seen blossom, green fruit, and ripe fruit fit to

be gathered; and frequently, you may observe many of them bearing leaves, blossoms, and fruit, not their own. The mora, a stately tree, too often perishes, owing to the seeds of other fruit trees which the birds deposit among its branches. These sometimes vegetate and bear their own fruit, until the mora, unable to support a charge which Nature never intended for it, languishes and dies under its burden.

All our attention was now attracted to the notes of a bird which called loudly "Wow, wow, wow." It was some time before we could discover it seated over our heads, when I immediately fired and brought it down. Unfortunately, owing to its striking in its fall against the branches of the tree, it lost a number of its beautiful feathers. The head and breast are blue, the back and rump very like the peacock's neck, with a bright yellow or rather gold-coloured belly; the legs are so short as to look as if the bird squatted on its stomach, much like the swallow. Its neck

is quite bare of feathers, a peculiarity not observable as it sits on the branches with its head drawn into its shoulders. It was about the size of a small pigeon, and, I believe, of the same species. This bird flies by long jerks. On cutting it open, to take off the skin, which I did that evening, I found its craw filled with seeds of the wild guava plant, and a few insects. The Indian who accompanied us called it the boccora.

At length the forest ceased, and we arrived on a sandy plain of some extent, and soon distinguished the huts of the Indians, which had all the appearance of large barns, scattered here and there as the fancy of the owner suggested. On reaching them, a number of their inhabitants came out to receive us, and we were conducted to the hut of the chief, which was unlike the others, it being of the shape of a bee-hive, and beautifully thatched down to the ground with the leaves of the manicol palm-tree.

On entering by a small low door, which

obliged us to stoop, we found the chief of the Arrawakas seated in the middle of his hut, and surrounded on all sides by young men of his nation, each armed with a bow and arrow, and a short club of hard wood. Some of these clubs had large hard flints or stones introduced at the ends, capable of cleaving a man's skull. This weapon is carried slung from the wrist by a cotton cord. The chieftain was an elderly man and most ridiculously ornamented with a cap of the brightest feathers; a cloak of the same material hung from his shoulders, and round his wrists and ankles he had bands or bracelets of the same material. After making our bows or salutations, he inquired what was our reason for entering the forest, and Mynheer Burgh translated it for us. Doctor Gordon stepped forth and answered, 'that the beauty and magnificence of the country, with a wish to see a people so happy as the Arrawakas, had alone induced us to visit them; that we had brought with us

some rich presents, to show our love and respect towards them, and requested that they might be distributed among his people as he thought fit.' When these last words were translated by the missionary, the whole of the Indian party showed their satisfaction by grinning with delight. One of the Negro slaves, who had followed us from the missionary settlement, brought in a large parcel, and, laying it on the ground before the chief, began to take off the cords which tied it together.

The first thing which appeared was a small piece of scarlet cloth, this the chief immediately laid hands upon; the next was a paper containing fish-hooks and a quantity of glass beads; and last, though not least in their estimation, was a stone bottle containing rum. At the sight of this they clapped their hands, and began to dance with joy; and the chief, rising from the ground and throwing off his finery, immediately shook hands with us all round.

Thus concluded our introduction, the formality of which had been kept up for the only purpose of obtaining presents; and we were now as intimate with our new friends as if we had been among them for fifty years.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Arrawaka Indians—Their Persons—Fashion of Wearing the Hair—Indolence of the Men—Personal Ornaments—The Quay—Household Furniture and Utensils—Cassada—Method of making Bread with it—Piwarrie—Construction of Huts—Vegetables cultivated by the Indians—Their Dogs—Mode of Training them—Method of Hunting—Fishery—The Nako and Nebe—Materials for kindling Fire and producing Artificial Light—Treatment of the Sick—Incantation of the Peii, or Physician—Language.

The Arrawaka Indians are of middle size and stature, straight-limbed, and well proportioned in their form, with eyes remarkably black and sparkling. Their skins are of the colour of new copper, and they have extremely straight and black hair. The women keep their's long by plaiting it and tying it in rolls on the crown of the head; and sometimes it is rolled round a silver bodkin. That of the men is cut short by means of half a calebash or basin, which is put

on their heads, and all the hair that comes below the edge is cut off with a coarse common knife, and thus formed into a regular circle.

Both males and females have a peculiar custom of plucking out every hair which appears on any part of their face and bodies; and, in place of eyebrows, they sometimes stain the skin of a blue colour with the nut of the tree called launa. They are an affectionate race to each other, but excessively indolent; the men constantly lounging in their hammocks and making the women supply their wants, for they will never move until hunger obliges them. They then go into the woods in quest of game, and the creeks and rivers yield them abundance of fish. I have sometimes seen, in Berbice, a stout young man walking with his arms akimbo before his wife, who, besides having a child at the breast, and another slung on her back, was sinking under the weight of a heavy burden on her head. The men are

exceedingly fond of amusements, and generally wear a great quantity of necklaces, consisting of the teeth of tigers, alligators, and wild boars, which they have themselves killed; and these they wear as trophies of their skill and prowess in hunting. In short, they are a completely sylvan race of beings, whose time and thoughts are wholly occupied with the chace.

They are extremely partial to glass beads, which they procure from Europeans, and with which they deck themselves, tying quantities round their necks, arms, and legs. They likewise weave a small covering of different colours and patterns in beads united by threads of coloured cotton, which they call a quay, and which is tied round the waist with strings of beads, and hangs over those parts that it is intended to conceal. The women not only make use of this, but also tie above the ankle and below the knee cotton thread, which is regularly knitted; and, being fastened there when

young, this garter becomes so tight when they grow up as to occasion the flesh to grow over it.

On festivals and other merrimakings, the men deck themselves out in birds' feathers of various and gay colours: they likewise paint themselves in a variety of fanciful figures with the anatto root and launa, the one yielding a bright red colour, the other a beautiful blue.

I now entered almost all their huts, or wigwams, and found the same kind of articles in all. They consisted of a few hammocks, hung from the beams; their cooking utensils, which lay scattered on the floor; and a few unfinished baskets or peggals, which were beautifully worked with slips of cane. In some huts we found the women and young girls, who were stark naked, busily employed in their domestic affairs, making bread, and also the piwarrie drink from the cassada root, which is their chief food in the shape of bread; and, what is most extraordinary,

this root, before it is exposed to the action of fire, is a rank poison.

The shrub which produces it is about four feet in height and covered with an ash-coloured bark. Near its top it divides into several green branches; from these spring large leaves, supported by a small red stalk. The root when cut is in substance like a coarse potato, only that it is, as I before-mentioned, a rank poison. When the root is grated, by means of a large board stuck full of small sharp pebbles, against which they rub it, the pulp is put into a long elastic tube, very curiously made of basket-work, which is generally seven feet long, though not above three inches in diameter, and closed at the bottom. With this simple machine, which is considerably contracted when crammed full of the grated cassada root, they extract the juice by suspending it from a beam and fastening to the end of it a heavy weight, which draws it down to its natural size; the juice, by this means pressed out, falls into a basin

or calebash, which is placed to catch it; and in this state it often proves fatal to animals and birds that drink of it. When thoroughly boiled, it is used for food without the least danger by the Indians as well as the white inhabitants of the lower colonies. They call it cassaripe, and it is the principal ingredient in the pepper-pot. The grated root, after having been thus squeezed and dried in the sun, is then sifted through a machine of basket-work, constructed for this purpose, and then made up into small flat cakes, extremely thin, like the oat-cakes in Scotland, which are baked upon a flat plate made of clay. This species of bread is dry and insipid, and certainly not capable of affording much nourishment; but, when eaten with good fresh butter, it is rather palatable.

The piwarrie drink is made from this cassada bread, chewed and put into a large jar, upon which they pour water. It afterwards ferments and becomes a strong, heady, drink, somewhat like ill-tasted stale beer.

Notwithstanding the manner in which it was prepared, I could not resist the temptation of taking a hearty swig of it, after our hot walk; and from the moment it touched my lips I never more thought of the operation which it had gone through.

These people generally erect their houses contiguous to creeks or rivers. They do not take much time in building them, as the materials are soon collected. They consist merely of four forked poles driven into the earth, generally making a square of twenty feet, and within the forks of these poles are rested the ends of four others, which form the principal beams of the building. Upon these the roof is placed and tied with the nebe or bush-rope, having been first put together while on the ground; and it consists principally of the leaf of the manicol, a tree of the palm species, growing in great abundance in almost every situation in these colonies, which is beautifully plaited together, and so thick as to prevent all rain from penetrating

through it. The sides are generally left open for the air to pass through; and the actions of every man here can be watched by his neighbours. Their settlements are small, consisting in general of no more than ten or a dozen houses, some of which contain two families, brothers, or intimate friends.

They cut down about a couple of acres of wood, with which their huts are generally surrounded, and plant pepper, papaws, cassada, silk-grass, and pine-apples, leaving the largest space for the cassada, which is the Indian bread. Cows, horses, sheep, goats, and asses, are not known among them. The only domestic animal they have is a mongrel species of dog, which was introduced into South America by the Spaniards, and is now much esteemed by the Indians on account of the great assistance which they derive from it in hunting. Each man is generally provided with five or six of these animals, on which they set a value, as they take uncommon pains to train them to their

manner of hunting; and, though I have often tried to persuade them to dispose of one, I never could succeed, as they rejected all my offers. These dogs are light and of a slender make, but resembling in some repects our village curs. Their head is sharp, with long, erect, pointed ears like the fox; and they vary in colour as they do in Europe: but those most esteemed by the Indians are the chesnut, or black and white. They are fed on nuts and vegetables. It is curious to see how an animal naturally carnivorous can be kept on such food. The method of breaking them in to hunt also shows the ignorance and superstition of these Indians.

They first chuse the dogs for different animals according to their strength, having each one broke for hunting a different species of game; taking the largest for the wild hog and the smaller ones for the smaller animals. When about six months old they are taken to the hunt with their sires, having previously gone through the process of being washed and

rubbed over with a particular leaf named after the animal which feeds on it, and which the dog is intended to hunt: and it is curious that these leaves should partake of the odour of the animal. The game being discovered, the young dog is taken forward and set on him; but he generally turns tail for the few first times, as this breed is naturally without spirit. He is then taken up, and again goes through the same process of washing and rubbing with the leaf; and at length he is treated to a piece of the animal's flesh, which makes him more keen and ravenous. In this manner, exerting patience, of which these Indians have a most abundant stock, and seldom correcting the animal, it becomes in time a sure and valuable dog.

Their usual method of hunting is to go in canoes along the banks of rivers or creeks, whilst their dogs range the woods; and when they light on game they immediately give tongue and endeavour to drive the terrified animal to the water. Here, the Indian on the

watch, hearing the well-known voices of his dogs, prepares his bow and arrows, and paddles his canoe, without the smallest noise, in the direction of the sound, and at once transfixes the animal as he plunges into the water. Not being provided with fish-hooks, these people make arrows, which answer the same purpose though used in a different way: and sometimes, to secure a larger quantity of the finny tribe, they poison the water with the nako or heri. These plants have a most astonishing effect on the fish, intoxicating them for some minutes, during which time the fishermen help themselves to as many as they think proper.

The nako is a bushy plant, growing to the height of about four feet, with leaves like the laurel, and bears a white flower of the bell shape. The root of this shrub, after being properly bruised, is thrown into the creeks or rivers, and a few moments afterwards the fish, becoming intoxicated, are seen floating on the surface to all appearance dead. The

nebe, called liane, has the same property of stupefying the fish, but its effect is not near so strong. Besides this instance of the bounty of Providence, they have scarcely a want for which nature has not provided.

The heriheri, a very large tree, furnishes them with an excellent material for kindling fire. Taking two pieces of stick belonging to it, they cut a small notch in the one, then place the end of the other perpendicularly into it, and, twisting it round and round with the palm of their hands for a few minutes, the friction sets it on fire: they then light the maroon, which is a peculiar species of moss produced from the behersda tree, and collected by the ants from its leaves in great quantities to form their nests with. The Indians rob them of it, and it answers all the purpose of tinder. The maan tree produces a gum, which is prepared by boiling, and is used by the natives to mkea tapers. Before boiling, it is exceedingly hard, and is called carimaan. Another

species of tree, called dali, bears a berry from which wax is extracted. In short so many conveniences are derived from the trees in this forest, and they possess such a variety of medicinal and other useful qualities, that to describe them all would require a volume.

As the rest of our party were engaged in looking at a few women preparing the drink called piwarrie, I entered a hut in which a sick person lay nearly at the point of death. The peii, or physician, who was the son of the expiring old woman, was lolling in his hammock, with a long thread of cotton placed before him, on which he was tying feathers of different colours: the woman appeared to me extremely old and emaciated, and lay stretched in her hammock, with a bunch of tobacco leaves and some other herbs hung over her as a charm. Close to her, in the middle of the floor, supported by three pieces of stick with their ends stuck into the ground, was placed the magical shell with which the peii performs his midnight incantations to

drive the evil spirit from the body of the afflicted. This shell is formed of a full grown calebash, with a few long narrow slits cut in it, and painted in various colours. Within the shell are put several small white stones and hard red seeds, both of these too large to fall through the slits just mentioned: and a long stick is run through from end to end, by means of two holes cut for the purpose, so that both ends extend beyond the calebash; the lower end is rolled round with cotton threads for the handle, and the upper part is ornamented with beautiful feathers of various colours, tied on in a spiral direction. With this charm they commence their operations about ten o'clock at night, after having closed in the hut with the manicol leaf, and shut every person out but the invalid. The peii begins to rattle it, by turning it with a slow circular motion, at the same time singing in a supplicating tone to the yawahoo, or evil spirit, until midnight; when it is supposed that he has an interview with this spirit,

who is the cause of all deaths and diseases; and at this time two distinct voices are heard in conversation. The peii, or physician, then comes forth, and communicates to the anxious spectators on the outside the words which the yawahoo had made use of, always preserving a serious and ambiguous manner.

For any trifling complaint they do not employ the peii, but resort themselves to various herbs, generally with good effect. I have seen a man, suffering under a violent pain in the bowels, make a fire immediately under his hammock, where he continued lying until he was nearly roasted.

Their language is harmonious and particularly soft, owing to so many vowels, sounding something like the Russian. They speak exceedingly quick, which renders it more difficult for a European to understand them. I collected a few specimens from Mynheer Burgh, the missionary, who spoke it with great fluency, and had, for the convenience of

himself and his associates, compiled a small dictionary that cost him some years' labour.

ARRAWAKA LANGUAGE.	ENGLISH.
Abboloi wodile,	A man.
Bahi,	A house.
Kuluira,	A small canoe.
Abuyooka,	A large canoe.
Abbunikurrawahee,	Plants.
Aboan,	It is spoiled.
Abbatikabu,	Five.
Abbeatima,	Six.
Abbolughou,	Twenty.
Abbonuboin,	Some.
Abbani,	A single one.
Abbanussabbe,	Still more.
Abba,	With—of—by—before.
Hali quaba ?	How are you ?
Hali quoha ?	How are you all ?
Issaquada,	I am well.
Hama abbu kabu ?	What have you there ?
Xinime abba mada,	I have fish.
Carrabubanda ?	Have you any crabs ?
Buttalika ?	Will you drink ?
Ichu,	I will.
Buiiiare ?	Are you there ?
Dialiou,	Yes, I am.
Hama bukri ?	What's your name ?
Bad habudi ?	Are you coming to see me ?
Hallowari ribonda ?	Where do you come from ?
Semeri boniadonda,	I come from Semeri.
Dohana bureii,	I am just going.

Arrawaka Language.	English.
Wa hoe?	Are you?
Hama banibu?	What are you doing?
Aballodin,	I am hunting.
Darbalikabui,	I am in a passion.
Wuni abbu,	During the rain.
Abuyou,	Something to eat.
Essakitai,	You are pretty.

CHAPTER XIX.

Manners, Customs, and Habits, of the Arrawaka Indians—Marriage Ceremonies—Polygamy—Punishment of Adultery—Their Shiness of Europeans—Musical Instruments—Earthenware—Calebashes—Hammocks—The Silk-Grass—Weapons—Clubs—Bows and Arrows—Various kinds of Arrows for Hunting and Fishing—Method of Catching Fish with them—The Manati or River-Cow, the presumed Original of the Mermaid—Canoes—Baskets—The Travellers engage a Party of Indians to accompany them up the River.

I will now describe the customs and habits of these people, as far as they came under my observation.

A maiden of twelve and a lad of fifteen have arrived at the marriageable age, and the parents rarely permit them to exceed these years, lest they should pair themselves. When a couple is to be married, the relatives on both sides, who include all the inhabitants of the village in which they live, are invited. The

men bring with them materials for building a hut, which is soon finished for the young couple, and the females present them with fish, fruit, cassada bread, and drink. The former chant couplets to the bridegroom, and the latter to the bride. These addresses are of the most indecent nature. When it is dark, the wife is taken by her female relatives to the house of her spouse, who receives her, and thus ends the ceremony.

After marriage the Indian expects fidelity to his bed; and so strong is the influence of opinion on this subject that adultery is very uncommon among them, although it is not forbidden by any of their religious ordinances. A father possesses such authority over his own children that they must give their hands where he pleases, and he always receives a portion on the occasion from his son-in-law.

Polygamy is universally allowed; but an Indian is never to be seen with two young wives; he only takes a second when the first becomes old, which the women here do in the

course of a very few years. This accounts for the circumstance of the man with his two wives, whom I had seen on the river during our excursion. I have since seen a man with four wives, which is a number they seldom arrive at, owing to the difficulty which one individual finds in supplying a sufficient quantity of food for so many mouths. These women are very prolific and seldom miscarry. No sooner are they delivered than, proceeding to the next river, they bathe, and, hanging their child round their necks, in a kind of scarf made of cotton, they return to their occupations without the smallest inconvenience. But, should a wife violate the marriage bed, the husband, as soon as her guilt is discovered, puts her to instant death, and, then proceeding to her father, says: "I have killed your daughter because she was unfaithful!" The father coolly replies: "You have done well, since she deserved it."

The Arrawaka women do not follow their husbands to the chase, but on most other oc-

casions they accompany them loaded with children and provisions, the men strutting before them, carrying only their bows and arrows.

Before distrust and suspicion were introduced by the conduct of the Europeans amongst these innocent people, strangers on their arrival amongst them were surrounded by the women, who washed their feet and welcomed them with expressions of the greatest kindness. But, alas! this hospitable custom does not now prevail; and I found that the young girls were seldom to be seen, being purposely kept away to avoid us. Of course whenever we did meet them we were circumspect in our conduct towards them.

Their music is produced by hollow reeds formed into instruments resembling flutes and flageolets of different sizes, each having four notes. These they blow all together, and accompany them with a drum made of part of a hollow tree, with a skin tied over it at one end. To this music they will sometimes dance for a

whole day or night without ever ceasing, their spirits increasing hourly with the exercise, until they scream like maniacs, jumping about in various frantic attitudes; and they generally end with intoxication, as they are much addicted to drink, and never miss an opportunity of indulging themselves in that way.

Their furniture consists of a few articles necessary for preparing their bread and washing their different kinds of food, as well as some pots for cooking their meat; these pots are made of extremely fine clay, which they stain black with the juice of particular herbs, and afterwards bake over the fire. They are exceedingly durable, will last a long time with care, and are much used by the white inhabitants, who purchase them from the Indians. They have likewise a large jar made of the same material for holding the drink called piwarrie, and several shells of calebashes of different sizes, the outside of which is stained in beautiful patterns, generally black on a

whitish ground; many of these I brought home with me. Being of different sizes, these utensils answer all the purposes of plates, spoons, and dishes. A hammock for each individual, which is made of the silver-grass, or of the twisted bark of that vegetable, completes the catalogue of their furniture.

The silk-grass, called by the Indians curra, nearly resembles the aloe, only it is inferior in size. Its leaves rise in large clusters immediately from the root: they are nearly five feet in length, having indented edges, and projecting into prickly points. The inner substance of the leaf consists of a number of strong small white fibres, running longitudinally, and which the Indians extract by making a small loop of cord fastened to a post, through which they draw the leaf with a jerk; this takes off the outer green substance, and leaves the fibres ready for twisting into cord, which they do after drying it in the sun. The African Negro prepares it by beating, and I have seen in Spain the

European aloe treated in the same manner as by these Indians for the purpose of making cord. When this fibrous substance is twisted into cord, an operation which the Indians perform with remarkable neatness, it makes excellent bow-strings, as it possesses extraordinary elasticity.

Their weapons consist of bows and arrows, and large heavy clubs made of iron wood, purple-heart, and snake-wood, which are the heaviest and strongest woods in the country. The clubs are frequently carved with fanciful figures, and are sometimes rendered still more destructive by the insertion of a hard flint-stone into them, which would cleave an enemy's skull asunder.

Their bows are from five to six feet long, made of the wasseba, purple-heart, and snake or letter wood; the preparation of the strings I have already described. The arrows are made of a straight reed, without a joint, about four feet long, found further up the country. In the smaller end they fasten a

piece of hard wood, which they tip with bones or flints in various forms, according to the animal or bird against which the arrows are intended to be used. The war-arrows, called by the Indians kabichterre, are merely a piece of hard wood shaped to a point. Some few cut them with barbs, others having the bone of a particular fish dipped in poison. The marna, for shooting small birds, has a blunt wooden head. The serrapa, or fish-arrow, is made like Neptune's trident, with three forks at the end, each being backed with bone. Those used for large fish consist of one barb, which is connected with the reed by a socket, to which it is held by a strong small cord. When the fish is struck, it immediately dives, and the point of hard wood leaves the reed, which floats on the surface, by which means the Indians are enabled to haul the prize into their canoes. The Karabiss nation use feathers on this kind of arrow, but not the Arrawaka. The katinera, for wild hogs, is similar to the serrapa, only differing in the

reed; the katinera being a stick of particularly tough wood, which becomes entangled when drawn after it by the hog through the underwood, and prevents the animal from making his escape.

Serama haba, in the Arrawaka language, signifies a bow, *tatima* a string, and *serama* an arrow.

With the serrapa or fish-arrow they likewise shoot the manati or river-cow, which is a species of the walrus genus. They generally go by moonlight, or very early in the morning, when this animal comes to graze on the foliage of the river sides, paddling their canoes quietly till they get within reach, and then letting fly their arrows. The animal immediately dives beneath the water, but soon appears again on the surface, owing to the great pain which the wound causes it under water. The hunter then discharges another arrow into it, and blows upon a shell having a small hole cut in it. The sound is re-echoed by the woods, and alarms the animal so much

that he again dashes off, followed by the canoe. The Indian can see the direction which he takes by the reed rippling the surface of the water. In this manner he pursues his game, blowing the shell whenever it appears, until the beast, quite exhausted with loss of blood, floats on the surface and becomes an easy prey.

I had an opportunity of examining an individual of this species which an Indian had taken during the night. Its head resembled that of a bull-dog, with small eyes placed in the centre of the countenance and near the snout. The mouth is large, with nostrils like those of an ox; it has no ears, but only two auditory apertures in place of them. The neck is short and the body covered with a rough blackish skin, thinly sprinkled with bristly hair; and from the shoulders protrude two fins resembling arms. With these it supports itself when feeding, and they also enable the females to hold their young to their breasts, which exactly resemble those of

a woman. It has no other fins but its tail, which is horizontal like that of the whale. The flesh is fat, and when dressed resembles pork, but is much more delicate. They grow to an immense size, measuring from sixteen to eighteen feet in length. It must have been from this animal that the ancients took the idea of the fabled mermaid, on which they bestowed, in addition to the above-mentioned properties, those of flowing hair and melodious voices. As I never met with them in a musical mood during any of my visits up the four large rivers in these colonies, I rather doubt their wonderful vocal powers, though many of my Dutch friends in Berbice assured me they had heard them sing. Among others I heard the late Dutch Governor, Van Battenburgh, positively assert at his own table that he had heard these syrens sing a beautiful, soft, and enchanting air.

I was delighted at beholding so extraordinary an animal as the far-famed mermaid, which alone was worth a voyage from Europe

to these shores; but how more delighted was I, on returning to the missionaries' residence, to find a piece of one, which Mynheer Burgh had sent before us by an Indian, well dressed for our dinner! We all agreed that the meat was the most delicious of any we ever had tasted.

Besides the household necessaries above-mentioned, these Indians provide themselves with a canoe, for which purpose they fell a large tree, and, after peeling off the bark, they burn by degrees all the inside completely out; they afterwards scrape and clean it, and give it a sharp form before and behind. This is a work of great labour and time, for which reason when finished such a canoe is highly valuable. In these frail barks they transport all their worldly treasures, their families, their dogs, and their utensils, as they are constantly on the move, hardly ever remaining above four or five months in one place.

After examining their method of making

pegals or baskets, in the manufacture of which they display wonderful neatness, from the outside of the cane, cut in thin long pieces, stained of various colours, and put together in so close a manner that they will hold water, we, through our interpreter, the missionary, engaged the chief, with a party of his men and canoes, to accompany us higher up the river. He readily assented to our proposal, promising to show us sport of all kinds; but at the same time he made us promise not to go too far, or beyond the point he should indicate, as he said the next nation further up the country were cannibals and would have no mercy on those who fell into their hands. To this we were of course obliged to agree, knowing the timidity of these natural people; and, after a few good hearty shakes of the hand and repeated *mattis*, we departed on our return to the post-holder's not a little fatigued with the heat of the day.

CHAPTER XX.

Magnificent View—Reflections on the Unhealthy Situation of the Dutch Settlements—Fatal Rencontre of poor Pincher—Anecdote of Him—Indian Method of Climbing Trees—Return to the Missionary Settlement—Stewed Monkey and Roasted Mermaid—Traffic with the Indians—The Kissee-kissee—The Derli—The Hannaqua—The Marradie—The Cole—The Waracaba, or Trumpet-bird—Preparations for continuing the Voyage—Sudden illness of Doctor Gordon—Return down the River to obtain Medical Aid—Arrival at Brighton Plantation—The Author attacked by Ague—Detained at Mr. Ingle's Plantation—Arrival at Fort St. Andrews.

We had hardly regained the forest when we determined, by keeping to the right, to reach the banks of the river above the post-holder's, to endeavour to obtain a view higher up, where the river made a turn or elbow.

What an immense range of forest now opened before us! and what an uninterrupted course the river pursued from the spot where

we stood to the sea! There can be no doubt that amongst so many vegetable productions there is yet many a root, and many a gum, oil, and resin, possessing valuable medicinal properties, that yet remain to be discovered. It struck me that it must be delightful to a man well versed in botany and natural history to reside here to make his observations.

When I considered the benefit of these elevated situations in a climate of so unwholesome a nature, I wondered for what reason our colonial settlements should be placed in the most sickly and most dangerous parts of this fine country. But, on consideration, I found that the Dutch, who originally established them, were too much accustomed to Holland to enjoy the beauties and purer air of hills and dales. The lands here are capable of nourishing and maintaining any number of settlers, and the Indians themselves might be induced to assist a new-comer; and, finding their labour well requited, they might

be led to keep up a constant communication with the settlers. What facilities this would open for bringing them acquainted by degrees with the principles of Christianity, in which attempt the missionaries seem to have totally failed!

These poor Indians are a harmless and inoffensive set of people, and their wandering and ill provided way of living seems rather to demand our pity than to authorise us to harbour any fears from their hostility.

The wood, as we advanced, began to thicken, and we found the heat so great in the afternoon as to be almost insufferable. Not a bird or even an animal was to be seen or heard in the forest: all had retired to dose away these distressing hours, until the declining sun should permit the trade-wind to waft on its wings freshness and renovation to their fatigued limbs.

We were now approaching, as we supposed, the banks of the river, the underwood becoming thicker and more difficult to make

way through. My faithful little Pincher was at my heels, panting with excessive heat, when suddenly a rush was made close to me from a bush. I cocked my gun, not knowing what animal it might be. Pincher darted at him, and, giving tongue, was soon lost to sight. I was now apprehensive that the animal might be a jaguar, or South American tiger; for, although I could not see him, he must have been large, from the noise he made in rushing from his lair, and I whistled and called my dog to come back, but to no purpose; his high spirit was doomed to be the cause of his death. I heard his voice yelping keenly on the heels of the animal; and, when just getting so far as to be out of hearing, I fancied that I distinguished a scream of agony. In vain I awaited poor Pincher's return: my friends, with our guide the Indian, hallooed as loud as their lungs would permit them, and fired their guns, in hopes that if he had been alive he might have heard them; but the precaution

was useless. My faithful favourite never returned; and, after an hour's delay in expectation of him, we at last proceeded on our way, and, some time afterwards, arrived on the banks of this fine river, where I took a sketch of it as leisurely as possible, with a view to give more time to my dog to find his way back, in case he might not be too much injured.

> "Alas! how little in this world of things
> Are held the feelings that pervade the heart!"

All my companions soon returned to their usual conviviality and high spirits, whilst I alone remained melancholy and downcast at the loss of a poor animal, which won my regards not so much by his many excellent and valuable qualities as by his constant attachment to me. I shall never forget a circumstance which happened at Dysart-house, the seat of the Earl of Rosslyn, in Fifeshire, and which I cannot now forbear relating.

Before I entered the army I spent some

time with the charming Lady Rosslyn, who desired me to bring my favourite dog. The consequence was now and then a rabbit-hunt close along the beach. Being determined to take a rabbit alive, I contrived a large trap with two falling doors, by means of a spring which must be touched by a rabbit passing through it; and, one evening, after sunset, I placed this machine on a rabbit-path in the warren, and my little Pincher observed most cunningly what I was doing. I returned to the house to tea, my dog accompanying me, and I did not miss him until bed-time, when he was not to be found in any part of the dwelling. The next morning, rising early, I started off to see the effects of my rabbit-trap, fully expecting to find one or two caught in it; and, on approaching, through the long rank grass which grows in Scotland near the sea, the first thing I saw was Pincher's head close to the trap, with his eyes fixed upon it, his sharp fox ears giving all their attention to the sound, whilst his

lively eye was ready to catch the slightest movement amongst them. Nothing in the world could be more ridiculous; and, when I considered that this cunning animal had been watching for the whole night the approach of bunney, I startled him by bursting into a loud laugh.

We now arrived on the sand-cliff upon which the post-holder's hut was situated, and thence had a delightful view up and down this magnificent stream. His sons brought us a quantity of cocoa-nuts fresh from the trees under whose shade we were now resting ourselves, and we drank their delicious milk to our no small refreshment.

The quickness with which an Indian youth climbs the highest of these tall trees is quite astonishing. He first ties his feet together with some coarse grass, and, placing them against the tree resting on the grass, by passing hand over hand and bringing his feet up after him, like a man swimming, he soon gains the top, where, with his knife, which an In-

dian always carries in his girdle, he cuts as many nuts as he thinks necessary, letting them drop, and descends in the same manner, his hands and feet having been the only parts which touched the tree.

We now embarked in four or five Indian canoes to return to the missionary settlement, and, after re-crossing the river, landed in time to partake of a good dinner which had been prepared for us; but, as I seated myself at table, I thought how my friends in Scotland would stare to see stewed monkey, roasted mermaid, and a pepper-pot of macaws, set down on table for their repast.

But my plan always has been when in Rome to do as Rome does; and we found our food both delicate and cooked in such a manner, with every savoury spice, that it would have tickled the palate of the most fastidious gastronome.

These missionaries created such jealous feelings among the Indians, by the commerce which they carried on with the produce of their

labour in the colonies, that, before I quitted the country, I heard of their having burnt them out of this settlement and sent them down to Surinam.

A number of Indians who had heard of our arrival—so fast does report fly even through these dense forests of Guiana—came down in hundreds of canoes, with numbers of beautiful birds, monkeys, and curious animals, to barter with us; so that the evening was passed in a most extraordinary scene of traffic with these cunning savages, who would occupy an hour in the most trifling bargain before they would decide upon taking our offer, in the hopes of obtaining a better price.

We at length concluded some purchases, amongst which were the following birds:—the kissee-kissee, the derli, the hannaqua, the marradie, the powie, the waracaba, and a few other kinds. I will now give a short description of the above-mentioned species.

The kissee-kissee, so called by the natives, is of the paroquet species. The head, beak,

and body, are of a bright orange colour; the wings and tail variegated with feathers of the brightest green. This bird is scarce, being found only far up in the interior of the country.

The derli, sun-bird, or fly-catcher, is a very delicate and beautiful bird, about the size of a pigeon; its body partakes of all the different shades of brown, variegated with white and black spots. When kept in the house, it soon becomes tame and feeds upon flies, which it catches with ease, by making a dart at them with its long bill. This bird is elegant in its movements; and one which my colonel had afterwards in Demerara afforded us all the greatest amusement during breakfast by catching flies amongst the china on the table.

The hannaqua is like a hen pheasant, only smaller. The bill and legs are flesh-coloured, and the cheeks red. It always makes a loud noise in the morning and before roosting time, when it is distinctly heard repeating, han-na-qua, from which cry it derives its name; for,

as I have before mentioned, the Indians generally name their birds and animals after their particular note or cry.

The marradie, or wild fowl, is of the same species as the former, and is of the size of a full-grown barn-door fowl. Their colour is black, spotted or speckled over with white, and they have red cheeks. Their note resembles the Indian name. The woods are full of them, and they constitute the chief part of the food of the natives.

The cole is of the same species, size, and colour, as the marradie, differing only in the head, which is white, with naked white cheeks.

The powie I have already described.

The waracaba, or trumpet-bird, is of the size of a large fowl in its body, with a very long neck and legs. The head is beautifully round, with a very small bill, which, like the rest of its body, is of a dark blue or black colour; the back and wings are brown, and it has a patch on the breast, of the size of a man's hand, exquisitely variegated with green,

yellow, and purple. This bird is remarkable for making a noise with its rump when frightened or irritated.

Besides the above-mentioned birds, the Indians brought us a great variety of monkeys, with a few other animals, for which they demanded salt and knives. One of them took an amazing fancy to a small dirk which hung by my side, and, after handling it for some time, in a way expressive of his wish to possess it, he at length offered me in exchange for it a bow and two arrows, which he considered as a full equivalent. Never shall I forget his look of disappointment when I made him understand that I could not part with the weapon.

Our supplies of salt and knives were very soon expended, and, in the cool of the evening, to conform with the habits of our hosts, we seated ourselves under the luxuriant foliage of the orange-trees, and they regaled us with pipes of excellent tobacco. All our party being so well pleased with our excursion thus

far, we now talked of continuing our journey as far as we possibly could up the river. Mr. Burgh, the missionary, informed us he had been a fortnight's voyage in canoes, and had proceeded as far up as he could persuade the Arrawaka Indians to accompany him; when they told him they durst not enter the territory of a nation who were cannibals, and he was therefore under the necessity of returning. He observed that there was very little diversity of scenery from what we had already beheld on our journey from the sea; the only difference consisting in rocks and shallows, and now and then a hilly tract of country; "but," said he, "the farther you get from the ocean the greater you will find the difference in the animals, birds, and trees." In vain we tried to persuade him to accompany us; and, it being now the hour of eight, we retired to our hammocks, with the determination of starting up this interesting river with the sun early on the next morning.

Dr. Gordon, having been much disturbed

by the vampyre-bats, the preceding evening, in the chapel-house, accepted an offer from the widowed missionary to sleep in his room; and the rest of us, fatigued with our day's ramble and the oppressive heat which we had endured, fell asleep almost as soon as we had stretched ourselves in our hammocks.

On the morning of June 20th, the sun's approach began to illumine the woods, under cover of which we were reposing, when all eyes were opened and questions put from one to the other respecting the state of our health, and whether we had escaped the persecution of the vampyre-bats. Having ascertained that none of our party had reason to complain, we hastened to dress ourselves, and proceeded to the missionary dwelling-house, to prepare immediately for embarking with the Indians in their canoes. We found them all arrived and ready to accompany us; but, on calling out for Dr. Gordon, were surprised, in answer to our hallooing, to see Mynheer Burgh put his head out of a win-

dow with his finger on his lips, as much as to say, "Don't make a noise, he is very ill." We now learned, to our horror, that poor Gordon had been attacked during the night with a severe fit of the cholera morbus, and was still lying dangerously ill. As there was no medical assistance to be procured in this wild part of the world, it was instantly determined among us to return with him to the lower settlements, where we could instantly obtain all the aid which his situation required, and to give up our farther discoveries in this country to save his life.

We immediately conveyed the poor doctor on board our schooner, which was lying at anchor close off the missionary establishment, four of us carrying him in his hammock slung on poles; and, after making a suitable return to our hosts for their hospitality to us, and a few presents to our friends, the Indians, to console them for our departure, we weighed anchor and ran down with the current at a great rate, the force of

the tide being much increased by the heavy rains in the last month, which had filled all the streams. At six we were obliged to come to, as the wind and tide slackened. We found ourselves a little above the island which we had landed on and examined on the 17th June, nor could we weigh anchor again until twelve at night; poor Gordon suffering great agonies during the whole time, and we entertaining very little hope of getting back with him alive to Mr. Fraser's plantation.

At ten the next morning we found ourselves off Mr. Lawson's plantation, situated on the left bank, and at the mouth of this superb river. We stood on with a fine breeze and the tide in our favour, and were obliged to follow the current for a considerable distance out to sea, in order to avoid the numerous shallows and banks formed at the mouth, which made it evening before we were able to land our suffering patient at Brighton plantation, the property of Mr. Evan Fraser, adjoining to Plantation Geanes, on the east

coast. The doctor of these plantations was immediately summoned to see our friend Gordon. He declared it was lucky that he had not been detained a few hours longer from his care, otherwise death must have been inevitable; and he wondered at Gordon's strength to resist such an attack for so long a period without help. Although he could not give us much hope, still we retired to rest much better contented than we had been for the two preceding days.

On lying down this night, I could not help feeling satisfied at being one of those who voted to return with our unfortunate invalid; and much as I wished to behold and examine into the nature of this new country, still I was far better pleased at saving the life of so esteemed a man.

June 22d. This morning I awoke with the feelings that a severe ague fit was coming on me. My fingers by degrees turned as white as snow, my nails a perfect blue; and, whilst occupied with breakfast, my teeth knocked

so hard together, that I really thought they would have fallen out. I was now recommended to return to bed, when the fit soon came upon me with such violence that my trembling made the whole house shake on its foundation. Thus I continued until four o'clock in the afternoon, when the cold fit began to change to a burning fever; and, in like manner, as my shivering fit had made me consume gallons of hot water, Madeira, and sugar, to warm me, I was now obliged to drink cold lemonade to cool my burning palate. In this state I lay until seven o'clock in the evening, when I rose from my bed quite exhausted, and, crawling down stairs into the parlour, was greeted by two of our companions. On inquiry I learned that Dr. Gordon had been much worse all this day, and that two of our companions, Mr. Ingles and Mr. King, had returned to their plantations; the former exceedingly ill with dysentery, the latter shaking with ague.

On retiring again to bed I could not close

an eye, owing to the convulsion my frame had sustained during this whole day; and the sun, on rising the next morning, found me heated and unrefreshed.

Shaking with another fit of the ague, I mounted early to commence my journey back to Fort St. Andrews, a distance of twenty-five miles, having borrowed a Rosinante from Evan Fraser's estate to carry me in time to appear at muster-parade, which takes place on the 24th of every month. At three o'clock I had not proceeded farther than Mr. Ingles' plantation, and so violent was the fever now upon me that I could scarcely reach his door, when, fortunately for me, I was seen from the window by that gentleman: perceiving the state I was in, he immediately ordered out two Negroes, who, lifting me off my horse, soon conveyed me to a bed in the house. For four days the fever continued with great violence; Mr. Ingles attended me with unremitting kindness; and it was many days before I had strength enough to mount on horseback and

complete my journey to the Fort. Here I found the garrison still in as sickly a state as when I left it, many of the finest men, and one or two officers, having fallen victims to the dire pestilence generated by the unhealthy situation.

CHAPTER XXI.

Removal of the Author to Fort Myers—His Quarters there—Alligators—Centipede and Black Ants—Neglect of Merchant Vessels to hoist their Colours—Daring Defiance of an American—The Author goes out in his Boat to Board her—Accident to the Boat—Perilous Situation—Horrid Anticipations—Story of a Seaman partly eaten alive by Fish—The Author is picked up by a Colonial Schooner—Humane Treatment of the Crew—Bar of the River—Second Fit of the Ague—The Author sent to Barbadoes for the benefit of his Health—Nancy Clark and Susy Austin—Assistant Commissary Whitmore—A Victim of Temperance—General Rules for the preservation of Health in Hot Climates—Captain M'Creagh and Captain M'Geechy—Departure from Barbadoes.

In spite of that filthy medicine, bark, which our surgeon, M'Gill, now drenched me with, the ague continued upon me for months afterwards, and my friend, Colonel Nicholson, paid me constant visits, scolding me every time he saw me for bringing it on myself by exposure to the sun and the damps of this climate. One morning, on entering my room, he said:

"Well, my boy, change of air is the best remedy for your complaint, and I have put you in orders to take the command of Fort Myers, at the mouth of the river, the subaltern there having just ended the time of his command. Come," continued the good man, "prepare yourself, and the garrison-boat shall immediately take you down, and I hope, with your own care, to find you soon recovered."

Being at this time light in baggage, with the assistance of my servant every article was soon packed and conveyed to the boat, which I had just entered when I observed Anna, an attendant on our colonel, running from the Fort towards me, with a pegal or Indian basket on her head. She soon came up to us, and handing in the basket said, "Massa, Colonel send you dis, and me hope you better." I thanked her and her good master, and, on examining the contents of the basket, I found a good piece of English cheese, a dozen bottles of Madeira wine, some lump-sugar, tea, and

coffee, with half a dozen of strong London porter. I stretched myself on my mattress under cover in the stern of the boat; the four black men gave way to their oars, and in a short time I was landed in my new command. I found Fort Myers to be an irregular mud work, surrounded by a ditch, having two guns, one of them facing the sea, the other looking into the river. My quarters put me more in mind of a card-house built by boys on a table, than any thing I had ever before observed. They consisted of a room about eight feet square, on the ground-floor; and, by means of a staircase, not wider than a ladder, I ascended through a trap-door to my bed-room above, the small window to which commanded an extensive view at sea. My little black boy, Scipio, who had joined me on my return from Evan Fraser's, slept in the room below, whilst I enjoyed the upper story in order to breathe a purer air.

The change at first worked wonders on my complaint; I began to recover strength fast,

and used frequently to amuse myself by shooting the little humming-birds for the sake of preserving them. One day, on gaining the banks of the trench, I observed that the water was much agitated, as I thought by some large fish which had got into it; and, calling to some of my soldiers, I ordered them immediately to close the sluices which communicated with the river. This being done, they all joined me in the hunt, when, at last, by means of long sticks with large hooks at their ends, we hauled out, to our great astonishment, an alligator about one yard in length. Such was the effect of horror or surprise in some of my men, on seeing this animal instead of the fish off which they expected to dine, that they actually ran away; while others, more enraged at their disappointment, soon put an end to its life, by battering it with their sticks. The same stir in the water still continuing, we concluded that there were more of these animals in it, and, setting to work again with all our hearts, we soon hauled out another of

these ugly creatures, whom we soon put to death in the same manner as the former. This was the last in our trenches. From their size they were evidently young ones, which had probably entered only in the morning, as I had ordered the sluices to be opened for the purpose of changing the water contained in them. Disliking the unpleasant task of skinning them, I ordered my men to throw them into the sea. Thus passed the first month spent with my detachment, now and then varied by an excursion into the woods, which here bordered the sea, attended by my man Friday.

One morning, on rising early from my bed and putting my naked foot into my slipper, I felt some kind of insect scrambling against my toes, and, instantly withdrawing it, a large centipede rushed out with its tail and forceps erected. I immediately dispatched it. I was frequently visited also by swarms of large black ants, which invariably destroyed every thing eatable that they met with.

I had been, during my command here, several times annoyed by merchant ships running up the river and under my guns without hoisting their colours to show to what nation they belonged. I was ordered to send returns once a month of all ships which entered or left the river to the governor in New Amsterdam; and my instructions were to fire at every ship that did not comply with these instructions, one shot ahead of and the second at the offender. One evening, I was walking on my ramparts, examining a brig, which had entered the river, and was now passing the gun, standing up towards the main fort, without any flag hoisted, though she must have seen the British colours flying from Fort Myers. Two artillery-men were parading the ramparts. "Come," said I, "shot your gun, and prepare for firing." No sooner said than done. By this time the brig had passed the fort, taking no notice of my country's colours. "D— her!" I exclaimed, "fire ahead of her." The words were scarcely out of

my mouth before I saw the ball splash in the water, close to her bows. Still she held on, with the tide in her favour, without taking the smallest notice of our hint, and was nearly out of our reach, when I ordered another shot to be fired at her rigging. Whiz went the ball, and with my glass I saw her top-mast fall. The American flag was now instantly hoisted, and she dropped her anchor. "I hope," exclaimed I, "that will teach you better manners!" and, turning round to Scipio, I ordered him instantly to prepare my little boat, which had been brought down to me from Fort St. Andrews, being determined to go on board her to ascertain the damage done, as well as to look at the horses which I supposed she had on board; for I had seen a cargo of hay piled up over the deck as high as her mast-head, with cattle standing below it on her deck, which was on a level with the sea, owing to her hold being filled with Indian corn. In this extraordinary manner and unseaworthy style I had already

seen many vessels of the same nation arrive. My boat being hauled out of the trench, I stepped into her, and, hoisting a sail upon the mast, which was always standing, steered her close up the shore until I got far enough ahead of the brig, in a strong tide running out to sea, in order to bear down upon and board her. Scipio, in his hurry, had forgotten to put the ballast into my boat, which, although we were alarmed once or twice by her heeling almost to upsetting, was, without a doubt, the cause of saving our lives; otherwise the boat as well as ourselves must have gone to the bottom.

On making the American brig, I put the head of our boat against the stream, and bellowed out for a rope: none was thrown to us, and in an instant a long spar, stretching across her stern, caught the top of my mast. The tide was now running out at the rate of seven or eight knots an hour; and, before I could well think of my dangerous situation, the boat filled with water to the gunwale,

which cleared her mast from the spar that had hitherto held it. I sung out lustily for assistance: none was offered; nor could I perceive one individual even looking at us from the brig. "Bless you, my little fellow," I exclaimed, "for forgetting the ballast, or before this we should both have been in Davy's locker!" The poor fellow grinned at me with fright and satisfaction. Night had now set in, and nothing beyond darkness was visible. "Come," said I, cheerfully, "trim the sail as well as you can; our only hope of safety is to gain the shore;" and, seated at the helm up to my waist in water, I saw plainly that we could make no way against so strong a current. Poor Scipio's teeth began to chatter, and so did mine, with the cold we experienced in our horrible situation; and I kept him employed baling out the water with an old foraging cap, which I had at the time on my head: but it soon proved to be an endless job, as many parts of the boat were so leaky as to let the water run through like a sieve. The

boat was evidently going out to sea, and I now began to offer up prayers to our Almighty Father to save us from the perdition that threatened us, to which poor Scipio responded. At length an agitation in the water caused us to believe we were going to the bottom. Both of us sat silent and in dreadful expectation, while our boat danced over the rough spot, and we were shortly in as calm water as before. "What could that agitated sea have meant!" I exclaimed.

My thoughts turned to the numerous fish of all species which abound in these waters, and a tale of an unfortunate seaman, which had not long before been repeated to me, now struck me with the most intense horror. A fine young man, a sailor, was discovered sitting astride of a withered branch of a tree, from which he was with great difficulty taken on board a colonial schooner, where, before he expired, he told the following story:— His ship was sailing down this coast before the breeze, when at night he by some

accident fell overboard, and on coming again above the water he sung out for assistance; but no notice was taken of him, his ship having by this time gained a great distance ahead, and being soon lost to view. He was a good swimmer, and, turning his head towards land, struck out in hopes of gaining it, but had not proceeded far when his arms came against something floating. He felt it, and finding this substance to be a tree, most likely carried away by the stream, he mounted astride, and seated himself on it, with his legs hanging in the water. He now found that fish were collecting about him, and in a short time one of them, grabbing at his foot, very nearly pulled him into the water again. During the whole of the next day they attacked him in swarms; he could not offer resistance, and at every bite they carried off large pieces of his flesh. The water about him became coloured with his blood, and he, suffering the utmost torments, was only saved from being entirely devoured by being taken

up by the schooner, on the deck of which the poor fellow soon breathed his last.

What horrible anticipations now haunted me! My heart was ready to jump out of my mouth, when Scipio, instead of answering my question, cried out, "Massa! Massa! de shippe! de shippe!" I looked around me and saw a colonial schooner running in for the river; and, standing up as carefully as I could, not to sink our frail boat, which kept us safe above the water, I called out as loud as I could bellow, "A man overboard! A man overboard!" At length the sound struck the ear of the helmsman, and instantly I saw her sails shaking in the wind; a small boat was lowered from her, and in five minutes we were in safety on her deck.

I knelt down and offered up my thanks to Providence for our miraculous escape from certain death; and, on rising again on my feet, found poor Scipio in the same humble attitude. What then is the difference between white men and black men in the eyes

of God? None. By white men I was left to perish, by black men I was saved.

I found that the crew of this schooner consisted of three Negroes, belonging to Mr. Lawson's property on the east coast, and now conveying a load of cotton to a ship in the river, preparing for her return to Europe. Had they been my most intimate and dearest friends, their kindness to me and Scipio could not have been surpassed: one of them, laying hold of the boy, by rubbing his limbs soon caused his blood to circulate in its usual manner; and two of them offered to do the same by me. I at last consented, and, pulling off my clothes, derived the greatest comfort and benefit from the operation.

The schooner was again under weigh: we shortly afterwards passed over the same agitated spot which had so lately struck us with terror; and, on inquiring the reason of the singular movement, or apparent swell of the water, on this place only, I was told that it was the bar of the river, about six miles

from land; which was evidently a bank formed across the entrance, breaking the force of the current as it passed over it. We had scarcely wind enough to carry us through the strong current running against us, and it was nearly daylight in the morning before we were landed safely at Fort Myers, where I instantly crept into bed, desiring Scipio never to communicate our disaster, or the loss of my boat, to any person whatever. This order I verily believe he punctually obeyed, as I never heard the circumstance mentioned.

The next morning I awoke, determined to get up to New Amsterdam, to abuse the captain of the American brig for his barbarous conduct towards me, and to demand his reasons for such treatment; but, scarcely had I begun an early breakfast when I was seized with a violent fit of my old complaint, the ague, which confined me in a most distressing state for nearly a month. It visited me daily, the cold fit in the morning and the hot fit in the evening: my legs swelled to the

size of my body; my physical strength was exhausted, and I was reduced to such a state of mental debility, that whether I should live or die appeared to me a matter of indifference. The serjeant under me contrived to inform our colonel of my situation; the staff-doctor was immediately sent down to see me, and made an immediate report to Colonel Nicholson: the next morning the garrison-boat arrived with another subaltern to relieve me, and I was carried in my bed to Fort St. Andrews.

The colonel soon came to see me, and, shaking his head, informed me that my health required me immediately to quit the colony; that to-morrow a schooner was sailing for Barbadoes, in which I could take my passage, and he had no doubt she would call off the Fort for me in her way down the river. "Change of air is necessary for you," said he, "and I hope in three months you will return to us perfectly restored. Your name shall be in orders to-morrow." I thanked

him for his kindness; told him that I was unworthy of it, from the little attention I had paid to his excellent and fatherly advice; but that I hoped on my return to convince him, by my conduct, of my determination to follow it in future.

Next morning I was carried on board the schooner, and three days afterwards walked on shore in Barbadoes: such was the effect of change of air in this climate on an invalid.

I put up at an inn kept by Nancy Clark, a black woman of considerable celebrity, on whom the Negroes of this island made the following song:

If you go to Nancy Clark,
She will take you in the dark;
When she get you in the dark
She will give you aquafortis.

If you go to Susy Austin,
She will take you in the parlour;
When she take you in the parlour,
She will give you wine and water.

These verses, on my landing, were howled about by every Negro in the place, and, on

inquiry, I found them to have originated in the conduct of Nancy Clark towards a young girl of colour; she having, in a fit of jealousy, taken an opportunity of throwing in her face some aquafortis to destroy her beauty, which she succeeded in doing most completely. Susy Austin, another woman of colour, kept the other inn, and, perhaps, might have bribed the poet for the second stanza.

Whether this were so or not, I slept the first night at Nancy Clark's, and the next morning was surprised by a visit from Mr. Whitmore, the assistant commissary-general, who had married a first cousin of mine. He told me that he had just heard of my arrival, and begged by all means that I would not hesitate in coming to stay with him; a bed-room was ready for me, and a knife and fork at his table, to which my cousin would welcome me. I cannot speak in too high terms of their kindness and hospitality to me during my residence in the island.

At their dinner-table I met one day an

assistant-surgeon of artillery. He had just landed from England, and was a handsome, stout, young man, full of blood and full of life. I observed him staring with astonishment at the number of good dishes which all at table partook of, while he alone confined his appetite to simples; more than one glass of wine he would not touch, and he declared spirits to be death in this climate. In short, so completely was his mind occupied with the dangers to be incurred under a vertical sun, that, in trying to avoid them, in ten days after his landing he took a fever, which is generally the result of too much care, and on the third morning of his illness he expired.

This system is the worst that can be followed by a European, and how many have been lost by it to their friends and country! No advice can be given how a man ought to conduct himself, for, if you consult fifty doctors, so many opinions will you obtain differing in some points one from another. Be cheerful and live well is my advice, and

take as much wine, spirits, and exercise, as agrees with you; but, on arriving at this point, you must have resolution to stop. Wine inflames a young man's blood, therefore it must be dangerous to take too much. Some men's constitutions require wine; of course no quantity can be specified. Beware of exposing yourself unnecessarily to the burning sun, but do not fear it when you are obliged to do so. I have already shown the effects of timidity, and, I have no doubt, if you follow this simple advice, you will return from the worst stations in the West Indies to your native country to enjoy your home.

The 15th Regiment of Foot, with the York Chasseurs, and the 7th West India Regiment, constituted the force at this time quartered at Barbadoes.

I fast recovered my strength, and shook off the malady which had afflicted me; but only made one sketch during my sojourn on this island, from the dread of exposing myself to the sun. Whilst here I made the

acquaintance of two brother officers, Captain M'Creagh, of the 7th West India Regiment, and Captain M'Geechy, in the quarter-master-general's department. I mention these two, from having met them both in the Peninsula. Brave and gallant fellows! Poor M'Geechy fell in leading on the storming party against St. Christopher, at Badajos, in 1811; and Colonel Sir Michael M'Creagh, K.C.H. served in the Portuguese army with myself and now stands high in his rank.

I found Barbadoes a cheerful pleasant residence during my stay upon it, and every evening was put in mind of that old song:

> Come, let us dance and sing,
> While Barbadoes bells do ring;
> Quashi scrapes the fiddle-string,
> And Venus plays the lute.

My leave of absence had now nearly expired, and, bidding farewell to my friends, I embarked on board a small vessel bound for Berbice; but, what was my astonishment on reaching her deck to find a black mare, the

property of Commissary Whitmore, on board; and still more when the captain presented to me a note that had been delivered with the animal, in which Whitmore intimated that, observing I had taken a fancy to the mare, which I used sometimes to ride whilst with him, he now begged me to accept her. The vessel was under weigh, nor could I now stop her if I wished; and five days afterwards both myself and horse were landed in Fort St. Andrews, Berbice river. The first thing I did was to sit down and pen my warmest acknowledgments to my friend for his welcome present.

CHAPTER XXII.

Removal to Demerara—Nocturnal Attack on the Author—History of a Tradesman of Demerara—The Electrical Eel—An American Horse—Wager made by the Author—Picture of his Antagonist—The Race—Success of the American in the Colonies—Adventure with a Shark—The Iguana Lizard.

SHORTLY after my arrival at Berbice, Colonel Nicholson received an order to proceed to Demerara, to take upon him the government of that colony, during the absence of Governor Bentinck, who was to return to Europe on leave of absence. The old man was delighted with the honour conferred on him, and he selected me to accompany him in the quality of aid-de-camp.

The next morning, early, I rose to see the colonel's two horses, with my own black mare, embarked to cross the river to York redoubt, where we soon joined them in the garrison-boat, and proceeded down the coast,

stopping at the same plantations as on our way up from Demerara. On the second day in the afternoon we reached the Government House, and I took up my quarters in the officers' barracks, about a mile from that building. It was soon arranged that Captain Eddington, paymaster of the Royal Regiment, should act as secretary, and I was most happy in his society, for he was a sensible and agreeable man. Old Bob, as we now called the acting governor, was the gayest of the gay. He assembled in his house nearly all the white inhabitants in the town and neighbourhood: dinners and balls were our constant occupation.

I had been a few months in Demerara, when, one evening, or rather night, walking home from the town to my quarters, I took the shortest but most solitary road to our barracks. I had not proceeded far, when I observed three men at some distance before me standing on the road. Not aware of having offended any person in the world, I

proceeded without fear, and had almost reached them, when I observed that they separated, one continuing in the middle of the road and the other two descending on each side near the trenches which bordered it. I now grasped a stick which I carried in my hand, and came up to the centre one, whom I recognised to be the young clerk brought out to this country by Mr. M——, my fellow-passenger in the Brilliant. In passing him, he aimed a blow at my head, which I, being prepared, warded off, and in return gave him such a thump that he staggered and nearly fell into the ditch. His two friends now came up to the attack, armed with bludgeons. For some time I defended myself, until one of them, getting behind me, like a coward, with a violent blow on the back of the head, floored me senseless; and I suppose, from my feelings the next morning, that he must have thumped me when down. I must have lain for some time insensible, and on coming to myself I crawled to my bed as well as my battered limbs would

permit. Here I was confined for five days without being able to rise, and, with the assistance of some of my brother officers, dispatched a complaint against the young clerk, for this outrageous attack, to the acting governor, who, summoning him before him, read him a serious lecture, and immediately ordered him to quit the colony. I did not know his fate until I left my room, when it was too late to remonstrate; and I learned afterwards that he had been making proposals to the daughter of a tradesman of the town, with whom he was desperately smitten; but, receiving a refusal, he had become angry at his ill success, and at last, observing some attentions that I paid her, he had determined to have revenge on me for his failure. I pitied the poor fellow, who had thus lost his situation, but it was too late to remedy that. On the second day after the attack he had been embarked in a vessel on her return to the Clyde.

The father of the young woman to whom I allude was a remarkably small man, with a

disagreeable countenance and high shoulders, perhaps from his occupation, and of most violent temper. His history, as related to me by himself, was rather remarkable. I will give it in his own words.

"My bane through life has been a temper I cannot command: and in Geneva, where I was born and bred, I had hardly gained the age of manhood before my passion had twice placed me in solitary confinement. I was brought up to a mechanical trade, and tried, by keeping myself constantly employed, to avoid getting into scrapes. After leading for ten years a solitary life, I thought I had saved money enough to take a wife to my lonely board; and, having been for some time past enamoured of a young girl who lived opposite to my workshop, I proposed and was accepted. Poor thing! what a miserable life she was now doomed to pass with me! She could not bear it long, and, after three years of suffering, she died, leaving me an only daughter. After her decease I again

entered by degrees into society, to drown remembrances: but what a fate now awaited me! A quarrel took place between me and a gentleman of the town where I lived—you must excuse my repeating what happened. My brain turned: I fled from the Canton, I know not whither. On recovering my senses I found myself in France. To return home was impossible; a price was put on my head, and I was doomed to be a wanderer from my native soil. My mind was soon made up; and, meeting shortly afterwards with a sure opportunity, I wrote to my brother to send my child and effects to me secretly. The business was well managed, and they arrived in safety, without leading to the discovery of any traces. I resolved to repair to Holland, and there embark for the Dutch East Indies: but the ship in which I took my passage was destined to touch at Surinam on her voyage out, and there I landed, finding few persons of my business in that colony, and being pleased with its appearance. I was still re-

siding in it when your troops captured it from the Dutch, in 1803; circumstances caused me to remove to Berbice, and the rest you know."

About this time I saw an electrical eel, in the possession of Dr. Duncan, surgeon to the forces. I had often heard of this singular fish, and had now an opportunity of examining it well. I was told that it was a small one of its kind, measuring little more than three feet from head to tail, the thickest part of the body being of the size of a man's wrist. It was kept in a tub of the river water, in which, when I saw it, the head appeared broad and flat, with eyes more resembling white beads than the bright transparent substance which Nature has placed in the heads of other creatures; its skin was of a blue slate colour, smooth and slimy, like that of other eels. On touching its back with my hand, it instantly communicated the electric shock with such force, as to reach the extremities of my feet. I tried the experiment with a silver spoon in my hand, through which the same effect was communi-

cated; but, on placing the spoon at a small distance in front of its head, it made a dash at it, and communicated the shock to my arm with redoubled violence. It is by this means that it procures food, the effect being so strong on small fish as to stupify them, when the eel immediately bolts them.

It is a curious circumstance that, if a stick was held in the water to it, nothing could induce the animal to attempt to strike it; but, when any metallic article was presented, it would immediately strike at it. One of our soldiers, on guard in the hospital, tried the experiment with his ramrod, and received so violent a shock that he was quite enraged, and made a blow at the fish with the intention of killing it; but no sooner did the iron touch the animal, than it returned such a shock to his arm that for some seconds he really imagined it was off.

About this time, Captain Yates came down from Berbice, on his return to Europe, and I purchased from him a beautiful little well-

bred English horse, of a bright bay colour. No horse could come near him in the colony, though many had tried, and my purse was well filled by the obstinacy of their owners. At length, an American ship arrived, with a cargo of horses, which were soon landed. One day, on visiting the stables, I observed an ugly beast of a pony, standing in a corner. "Halloo!" cried I, "what made you bring such a brute as this with you?"—"Oh," said the supercargo, "I guess he's a pretty particular nation good trotter, and, by the furnace of Babylon, I'll par with you a hundred joes that he will give your bit of blood the go-by, he trotting and you galloping."

This was a large sum for a poor subaltern; but my blood was up at his impudence, and the bet taken and booked. Off I rode to the garrison, and, acquainting my brother-officers that I had just made a bet with the American supercargo, to gallop Cricket one mile against a pony, more resembling a pig than a horse, which he had brought with him, and which

was to trot that distance, they all begged me to let them share the hundred joes amongst them, which I fortunately did, out of motives of sheer kindness to them, keeping only twenty for my own proportion. At dinner, that day, I laughingly told the colonel how the American had taken himself in, with his bet against Cricket; when Eddington, fixing his little grey eyes on me, exclaimed, "What a fool you are! these Yankees never make a bet without being certain to win. I have been long enough in the West Indies to know their tricks." "But," said I, "you must allow that my little horse is well bred, and gallops fast." "Yes," he replied, "but you will find, to your cost, that Jonathan will get over the ground faster." Old Nicholson now took part against me; and it ended by my declaring that I could not be off the wager. The morning of the next day was fixed for the trial, and, the ground having been chosen, and one mile measured up the road leading past the estate belonging to the

late Dutch governor, Meertens, called Rome, a large concourse of officers and civilians assembled. Cricket was led to the ground, and, as soon as the acting governor appeared, I mounted in English jockey style, in a green silk jacket with red sleeves, and green cap. At this period, I was not much above nine stone in weight. Lieutenant Myers, of the Light Company, was appointed to ride after us, to observe that the Yankee did not strike out of a trot. Bets were offered and taken for both sides, to a considerable amount. The course was cleared, and the American, dismounting from his pony, which he had ridden to the ground, threw off his hat, coat, and shoes; and, again mounting in this state, prepared for the race. I never beheld a more ugly beast than his animal now appeared, except some of the French Chasseur cavalry horses, which I have since seen in the Peninsula. His head was placed like a pig's, between his fore-legs; he had a long round back, a cocked tail, and hind legs of extraor-

dinary length, and his belly was drawn up like a greyhound's. In short, he was a complete starved French pig. The rider was equal in ugliness to his horse. He was thin and tall, bearing a strong resemblance to an anatomical figure, with a nose like a schooner's cutwater, a long chin, ears like trenchers, and lengthy jaws. His long hair hung on his shoulders, lank and oily. "I guess," said he, in mounting, "you have a pretty considerable muddy time on't here," alluding to the state of the roads. The signal was now given, and Cricket made a beautiful start. I suffered him to go his pace, keeping ahead for the first quarter of a mile; when my antagonist made up to me, and kept for some time alongside. I now had an opportunity of looking at him, and in my life I never saw an animal get over the ground as he did, both legs on the same side working together; this is what we call an amble. When about half way, he began to head me; I spurred and flogged, but without effect. Poor Cricket was

now at his speed, but could not keep up with this extraordinary creature, and, with a rein hanging loose from his neck, and, with a thick stick, thumping the beast, who appeared to be unacquainted with any other pace, he passed the winning-post nearly twenty yards ahead of me. I felt myself look mighty foolish, and Jonathan, riding up to me, exclaimed, "The devil fling brimstone on me by the gallon, if you a'nt as flat as the walls of Jericho. I told you my Vermont was an omnipotent creature. Well, if you be'nt Solomon, I be'nt nobody." I took no notice of this elegant address, but began collecting money from those who had insisted on sharing the bet with me, and immediately paid the whole sum into his hands. After counting the pieces, whilst putting them into his pocket, he exclaimed, "A hundred joes! Gospel, by the living jingo!" I was contented with this receipt. A few weeks afterwards, he embarked this extraordinary animal, and, touching at some of the islands,

beginning with Grenada, he took with him a purseful of gold from the military in each of them, on returning to North America. An American has in his composition all the quickness of a Frenchman, the cunning of a Scotchman, and the parsimony of a Jew. This man certainly outwitted me, or, as they say, "made a pumpkin of me."

One beautiful morning, whilst rowing up the river among the shipping, a fine young Englishman, jumping from one of the vessels, passed me swimming. "Are not you afraid of sharks?" said I to him. "Oh no," was his reply. I had not passed him many yards, when I heard one of his comrades call out from the deck of the vessel, "A shark! a shark!" and, looking over the water, I observed the fin of one raised, as it may frequently be seen, above the surface, and scudding in the direction of the swimmer. A rope was instantly thrown from the ship; the end fell a little short of him. One more stroke, and he would have been almost in safety. At

this moment the water near him became agitated, and his friends on deck kept urging him to increase his exertions. He pushed on as rapidly as his strength would permit, but they durst not venture to his assistance; and, although within a few yards of them, he was alone. No, not alone; for that slimy touch warned him that the shark was near. "Oh, God!" he exclaimed, "he is here! I feel him!" and in an instant he was impelled swiftly through the water. One struggle more and he disappeared.

This monster is obliged to turn before he devours his prey. On first hearing the name of shark sung out from the vessel, I directed the Negroes to pull towards him; but, though I was too late to save his leg, I was fortunately in time to take him out of the water, on his rising again at a short distance from the spot where he had disappeared. I pulled immediately to him, and lifted him into the boat. What a sight now presented itself! His right leg, below the knee, was gone, and

his thigh shockingly lacerated by the shark's teeth. The blood was running from it profusely. I knew not what to do with him; and, pulling him immediately alongside of his own vessel, the mate and one or two of his friends came down. "Something must be done immediately," said I, "or he will die from loss of blood." "To the hospital!" replied the mate; and in a few minutes the poor fellow was placed under the doctor's care; but no art could save his life, and he lingered only till the next morning.

I do not think I have yet mentioned the iguana lizard, though, since my arrival in this country, I have killed so many of them, and tasted a few at table; for they are considered a delicacy by the natives. It grows to the length of four feet, is of a green and yellowish colour, having a curious mane running from the back of the head along its back, down to the end of its tail: this it raises or depresses when in anger or tranquillity. Its teeth are exceedingly sharp; and I have seen

some severe bites given by it to inexperienced dogs or huntsmen.

These lizards are found in savannahs, or swamps, where they are hunted by the natives and killed, being considered a great dainty. The legs and fleshy parts of the body are dressed in a rich white sauce; and I have found this food as tender and white as a chicken.

END OF VOL. I.

LONDON:
F. SHOBERL, JUN., 4, LEICESTER STREET, LEICESTER SQUARE.

GENERAL BOOKBINDING CO.
80 375ST 53 005 A 1 2V 6554
NTROL MARK

Stanford University Libraries
3 6105 013 852 046
F2371
S13
V.1

Date Due

JUN	1986		
JUN	1988		

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA
94305